

# THE TIMES

Blair accused of taking 'step down into the gutter of public life'

## Major backs Aitken over bill at Ritz

By Philip Webster, Political Editor

JONATHAN Aitken, backed by Sir Robin Butler and an aggressive John Major, fiercely countered allegations yesterday that he had lied about the bill for a two-day stay at the Hotel Ritz in Paris as the Government failed to extricate itself from the continuing crisis over sleaze.

In a furious clash in the Commons today, the Labour leader, demanded to know the basis on which Mr Major dismissed ministers: "the truth of the allegations or merely the number of them?" Mr Major said that he had not expected to see Mr Blair "step down into the gutter of public life quite so soon". He added: "It is to be the new clean politics, let's have the old dirty politics from Labour that we have been used to."

Even as Mr Aitken and Mr Major mounted their counter-attack against "scurrilous" allegations by *The Guardian* that Mr Aitken had lied to Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, the struggle between the Government and the Al-Fayed's flared into open warfare. Within two hours of Mr Major's appearance in the Commons, Mohamed Al-Fayed, the Harrods chief and owner of the Ritz, issued a press release clearly intended to undermine the defence of Mr Aitken, the Chief Secretary of the Treasury. That came only hours after the Director of Public Prosecutions gave police notes of the meeting between the Prime Minister and an informant who went to Downing Street allegedly on behalf of Mr Al-Fayed to level allegations against ministers, an encounter that led one Tory MP to suggest that he had tried to "blackmail" the Prime Minister.

Mr Major's hopes that the sleaze allegations might soon peter out were dashed by the fresh claims yesterday about Mr Aitken's stay at the Ritz and apparent discrepancies over whether he had paid the full bill. They were further

frustrated last night with the news that Dame Angela Rumbold, a Tory deputy chairman, had stepped down as executive director of a firm of "political" lobbyists after being reported to the Commons Committee on Members' Interests about her alleged role in the choice of Ebbsfleet for the Channel Tunnel rail link station.

Mr Aitken's bill for his two-night stay at the Ritz was 8,010 francs, according to an apparent copy seen by *The Times*. But a letter from Frank Klein, of the Ritz, suggested that a woman whom the minister



Rumbold resigned as Tory deputy chairman

had confirmed was his wife had paid only 4,257 francs. The implication drawn by *The Guardian* was that at least part of the bill was paid for by Said Mohamed Ayaas, a Saudi Arabian businessman.

*The Guardian* alleged yesterday that, when questioned earlier this year by Sir Robin, Mr Aitken had sent him an edited excerpt of the Klein letter suggesting that his wife had paid the full bill.

Mr Major moved swiftly yesterday to defend his minister. Sir Robin wrote to Peter Preston, the editor of *The Guardian*, yesterday saying: "I do not regard Jonathan Aitken as having lied to me or misled me." He said Mr

Aitken had given him a complete copy of the letter from Mr Klein, together with "other documentation" relating to the bill. He added that he was satisfied that, "despite the discrepancies in the billing", Mr Aitken and his wife paid their bill in full.

However, neither Mr Aitken nor Downing Street had offered an explanation early last night for the discrepancies in the billing. Andrew Smith, the shadow chief secretary, said: "The public will now expect Mr Aitken to produce the relevant documentation."

In fact, Sir Robin was wrong in speaking of the Aitkens paying "their bill". As Mr Al-Fayed pointed out, Mrs Aitken was not a guest, and that is not disputed.

Mr Aitken hit back at the allegations against him during Treasury Questions in the Commons. He seized the opportunity of a question from Gordon Brown who challenged him over the bill. He said he wanted the chance to "clear myself of these scurrilous allegations" and pointed to the letter from Sir Robin "repudiating and denying the scurrilous allegation which Mr Preston made this morning to the effect that I had lied to the Cabinet Secretary." He called for "an end to this hysterical atmosphere of sleaze journalism".

But he had reckoned without the intervention of Mr Al-Fayed. After watching the Prime Minister's televised Question Time exchanges with Mr Blair, Mr Al-Fayed issued a statement on Harrods Knightsbridge newspaper, saying: "I note with interest that Mr Aitken is maintaining that he and his wife settled his bill at L'Hôtel Ritz - she was not a guest. I note with interest that the Secretary of the Cabinet has accepted his explanation in spite of the fact that his whole bill was put on to the account of a Saudi businessman."

Mr Al-Fayed said he was surprised that Sir Robin had reached his decision without reference to him because he would have been able to help. "I listened to the call by the Leader of the Opposition for an open investigation into all relevant matters. I should be very happy to co-operate with such an investigation as long as it is conducted by someone of the calibre of Lord Justice Scott. Of course, that presumes that I would be asked to do so."

Meanwhile Dame Angela stepped down last night from her post with the lobbyists Decision Makers after Labour



Aitken took chance to "clear myself of these scurrilous allegations"

reported her to the Commons Committee on Members' Interests earlier this week for what it claimed was "apparently grossly improper behaviour". The lobbying company was allegedly involved in the decision to choose Ebbsfleet in Kent for the Channel Tunnel rail link station instead of Stratford, in east London. Dame Angela declared her post in the Commons register of members' interests and has said she has nothing to hide. She declined to comment as Brian Wilson, Labour's industry spokesman, demanded an urgent statement from the

Prime Minister, describing the issue as "a very serious matter". "What Dame Angela had to offer the lobbying firm was access right up to the level of Prime Minister," Mr Wilson said. "If she now recognises that there is a conflict of interest that goes straight to the top, will she now say whether the Prime Minister met the lobbyists and what role they both played? This whole affair has been hopelessly tainted by political influence and I am calling on the Prime Minister to make a statement."

Four British soldiers serving with the United Nations are being held by Bosnian Serbs despite promises that they would be released. The four Britons were captured on Tuesday while on a night-time mission near a British UN base at Tomislavgrad, in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina. The men and a female translator were missing until a Serb army liaison officer said next day that they were being held for questioning, reportedly in Kupres. The Serbs had said the five would be released yesterday but a UN source said last night: "They are being held against their will."

Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, a UN spokesman, refused to give the men's unit or regiment, any personal information, or to explain their unusual mission. It is uncommon for peacekeepers to go on night patrol, apparently crossing front lines. Elite British units have been used for special tasks in Bosnia ranging from secret negotiations to infiltrating besieged areas and directing Nato air raids.

## Tory haunted by the ghosts of Room 526

By Andrew Pierce

THE long walk down the corridor to Room 526 at the Hôtel Ritz in Paris has come back to haunt Jonathan Aitken. Mr Aitken spent two nights in the Al-Fayed establishment, which has already led to the downfall of one minister, last September.

Three leading Arab businessmen were in the Ritz at the same time. They were Said Mohammed Ayaas, a former business associate of Mr Aitken, Fahad Somali, another former business acquaintance of the minister, and Wafic Said, a close friend of Mark Thatcher.

Mr Aitken went to Paris to meet his wife Lolita and daughter Victoria, who was starting at a new school that weekend. He had dinner with Mr Ayaas, Victoria's godfather, but did not meet the other men. He stayed in a single "superior" class room and ran up a bill of 8,010 francs, almost £1,000. A copy of the bill, with the name Mr Jonathan Aitken at the top, shows that the room charge was 2,600 francs a night. Extras included room service, two telephone calls and laundry.

The computerised bill is not signed, and there is no indication who paid it. At the end it says: total 8,010 francs; balance 0.00 francs. Mr Aitken's wife and daughter stayed elsewhere in the city.

The bill, according to *The Guardian*, was debited to the sixth-floor suite of Mr Ayaas, which costs 18,000 francs a night. Settlement of the room bill by Mr Aitken would appear to breach the Questions of Procedure for Ministers guidelines which were reprinted in 1992 on the orders of the Prime Minister.

Mr Aitken denies that Mr Ayaas paid it. He says that the

debt was settled in cash by his wife after he had left France. Challenged to prove it, he told *The Guardian* it was settled by "money given to her by me for this purpose some hours after I had left Paris". Mrs Aitken was not available for comment.

The newspaper claims, however, it has documents showing that only half of the bill was credited to Mr Ayaas's balance at the hotel. Mr Aitken told the newspaper to refer the matter to Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary, who has cleared him of any impropriety.

The minister said he had a receipt from the hotel and an independent witness to the

transaction involving Mrs Aitken. But when he failed to give a copy of the receipt to the newspaper, the editor sent a dossier to Sir Robin. On February 25, after Mr Aitken told the newspaper he was confident that there had been no breach of the rules, a copy of the dossier was sent to John Major.

A few days later, Mr Aitken wrote to Sir Robin quoting a letter from Frank Klein, manager of the hotel, showing that a woman had paid the bill. Mr Klein, in his letter to Mr Aitken, said: "I discussed matters with the cashier who was on duty on September 19 and I am pleased that he does in fact remember the transaction to which you refer. His recollection is that a brunette lady of European aspect

Continued on page 2, col 6

## Ulster deal boosts Major's standing

By Peter Riddell

JOHN Major's widely praised handling of the Northern Ireland ceasefire has helped to boost his opinion poll rating to its highest level for 18 months, according to the latest MORI poll for *The Times*.

The recovery in his standing

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has had little impact, however, on the Tories' low overall rating. Tony Blair's election as Labour leader has continued to boost his party's rating, to record levels as support for the Liberal Democrats has been squeezed sharply since the spring. The poll shows the impact of the parties' contrasting experiences at their annual conferences.

The latest MORI poll, undertaken last weekend, as stories about "sleaze" were dominating the media and just before Neil Hamilton, resigned as a junior minister, shows Tory support unchanged at 25 per cent, while Labour has advanced three points to 57 per cent. The Liberal Democrats are down three points to 14 per cent.

For the first time in two years there is evidence of a pick-up in Mr Major's personal rating from his previous record low. The number of people satisfied with the way he is doing his job as Prime Minister is now 27 per cent, up from 17 per cent only two months ago. The proportion dissatisfied has dropped from 76 per cent to 66 per cent over the period.

Matthew Parris, page 2  
Poll analysis, page 11

THE TIMES

30p ON SATURDAY



MAGAZINE

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WEEKEND

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VISION

The 7-day radio and television guide

## Clinton fails to win over Assad

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN DAMASCUS

PRESIDENT Clinton, anxious to cap Wednesday's Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty with a comprehensive Middle East settlement, yesterday became the first American leader in 20 years to visit the pariah state of Syria. But his advisers admitted last night that his gamble had paid off only partially.

After three hours of talks in Damascus, Mr Clinton claimed that he and President Assad had made "some progress" on substantive issues blocking an all-important Israeli-Syrian accord, but senior White House officials lamented that Mr Assad had not publicly reassured Israelis leaders on his intentions. A formal treaty could still be attained within four to six months, they believe.

In Jerusalem later, Mr Clinton experienced the Middle East's explosive religious and political complexities when he had to admit defeat and cancel his controversial tour of the holy sites in the Israeli-annexed eastern half of the city. American officials said that Mr Assad, in private discussions with Mr Clinton, condemned recent terrorism by militant groups bent on destroying the peace process, but

were disappointed that he failed to do so publicly. They also regretted that he had scornfully dismissed a reporter's suggestion that he open direct talks with Yitzhak Rabin, the Israeli Prime Minister.

"In terms of substance, we saw some movement," one official said. "In terms of public diplomacy, we didn't see today what we would like to have seen."

The Clinton Administration is growing increasingly concerned that terrorism such as last week's Tel Aviv bus bombing could derail the painfully slow Israeli-Syrian talks. Mr Clinton said he and Mr Assad had agreed to accelerate the talks, and had made progress on substantive issues, but neither he nor his officials would disclose details.

Israel and Syria have been deadlocked for months over the terms on which Israel would meet Syria's demand for its full withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

Mr Clinton later flew to Jerusalem, and was last night briefing Mr Rabin on his meeting with Mr Assad.

Holy tours off, page 14  
Mishcon role, page 14

## Serbs hold four British UN troops

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO

FOUR British soldiers serving with the United Nations are being held by Bosnian Serbs despite promises that they would be released.

The four Britons were captured on Tuesday while on a night-time mission near a British UN base at Tomislavgrad, in eastern Bosnia-Herzegovina. The men and a female translator were missing until a Serb army liaison officer said next day that they were being held for questioning, reportedly in Kupres.

The Serbs had said the five would be released yesterday but a UN source said last night: "They are being held against their will."

Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, a UN spokesman, refused to give the men's unit or regiment, any personal information, or to explain their unusual mission. It is uncommon for peacekeepers to go on night patrol, apparently crossing front lines.

Elite British units have been used for special tasks in Bosnia ranging from secret negotiations to infiltrating besieged areas and directing Nato air raids.

Muslim victory, page 17

Hunting for Perfection~

Happy thought. - Excellent. Young DONALD'S at the bar; his round too by the look of it. Ahh... I can already taste the distinctive ale, that subtle blend of flavours.

What's this? DONALD'S knocked a lad's drink with a flick of his ample tail. Our new constable, too, worse luck.

Wry thought. - Such a tender age to experience a brush with the law.

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# Piddling poodles peddle a passable line in righteous indignation

The present level of debate at Westminster was well illustrated by John Major's odd use of "piddling" yesterday when he seemed to mean "peddling". The Prime Minister was concerned about people peddling — or was it piddling? — rumour. He employed the word three times in his exchanges with Tony Blair. Once he pronounced it as "piddling", once as "piddling" and once in a form which sounded like "piddling". The Tory back benches

looked really — well — piddled off. Making yet another "ho-ho" remark about his endogenous zone is rather like cracking the umpteenth back-to-basics joke to John Major: your victim may choose to respond with a weak smile, or a smack in the face. Brown chose a smack in the face. He demanded to know whether Aitken had himself paid all his hotel bills at the Ritz. It was the Labour poodles' turn to yap.

Madam Speaker protested. Surely this had nothing to do with the question, which was about unemployment? But Aitken felt that, unless answered, these allegations might well have a bearing on unemployment in his own. Asking leave of the Chair to respond, he replied by quoting a letter from the Cabinet Secretary, saying that he (Aitken) had not lied.



POLITICAL SKETCH

Aitken sounded genuine. Poodles cheered.

The exchange proved piddling by comparison with what was to come. Within half an hour Tony Blair was peddling furiously. He wanted to know upon what criteria ministers were being sacked or retained. Blair's question was well-framed, but pitched with that trace of adolescent indignation which still undermines the force of his delivery.

Mr Major roused himself to a magisterial fury and

accused Blair of piddling instead of behaving in the civilised way he had promised. The PM thinks that being civilised means not criticising the Government.

Major's logic was questionable, but to respond, as Blair did, in an almost plaintive "Please, Sir, that's not fair" tone, lacked authority. Denis Healey would have scored with a "Come off it, sonny" approach. Blair still sounds more like defence than prosecuting counsel and the Commons is a place where

apparent self-belief trumps logic every time.

Lewis Carroll would have enjoyed yesterday. Margaret Thatcher's Queen of Hearts will never be surpassed, but Mr Major was a passable Mad Hatter. He raged against unasked questions with such command — and volume — that the mismatch passed almost unnoticed.

Tony Blair felt understandably aggrieved. It's a *Through the Looking Glass* world. But Mr Blair needs to stop sounding like Alice.

## The old Etonian with Middle Eastern promise

BY EMMA WILKINS AND ALICE THOMSON

JONATHAN Aitken's links with the Middle East, which were forged more than 20 years ago, establish him as one of the Conservative Party's best-connected Arabists.

The Eton and Oxford educated MP for Thanet South counts a number of influential Middle Eastern businessmen among his greatest friends, including Said Mohammed Ayas who is godfather to his 14-year-old daughter, Victoria, and Wafiq Said, the Syrian-born businessman and friend of Mark Thatcher. Both men have business connections with Mr Aitken. Mr Ayas and Mr Aitken were long-standing

directors until 1992 of Al Bilad (UK), a subsidiary of a Saudi investment company founded by Mohamed bin Fahd, a son of the Saudi King.

Mr Said, whose contacts include Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz, the Saudi defence minister, joined Mr Aitken's merchant bank, Aitken Hume, as a major shareholder in the mid 1980s. When Mr Said became a target of allegations in a London-based Arab satirical magazine in 1984, Mr Aitken is said to have lobbied senior government ministers in his friend's defence. Visitors to Mr Aitken's 10-bedroomed Queen Anne house in West-

minster notice ornaments from the Middle East including a ceremonial sword and dagger, which were gifts from King Khalid of Saudi Arabia. He also speaks some Arabic.

A millionaire in his own right, having inherited nothing from his great uncle Lord Beaverbrook, Mr Aitken's business career has prospered through contacts with the Saudi royals.

It was when a secret £21 million Saudi royal stake in TV-am was uncovered in 1988 that Mr Aitken did "the honourable thing" and resigned from the television company he had helped to set up. At the

time, Mr Aitken said he had not done anything illegal, but admitted to "an error of judgment" in not informing TV-am's board that they were being financed with Saudi money.

Mr Aitken's first taste of Middle Eastern business affairs came in 1973 when he joined the ill-fated investments house Slater Walker as executive assistant to the chairman, Jim Slater. After a seven-year career in journalism, he took special responsibility for Slater Walker's affairs in the Middle East, working as the company's managing director in the Gulf states and the Lebanon for two years.

## Go-between editor stays silent

BRIAN Hitchen, the newspaper editor named by senior Whitehall sources as the secret Downing Street intermediary in the Al-Fayed affair, again refused to discuss his role yesterday.

Repeated calls from *The Times*, which named Mr Hitchen as the emissary on Wednesday, failed to elicit a response from the editor of the *Sunday Express*.

Mr Hitchen's name is understood to have been given to the Director of Public Prosecutions by Sir Robin Butler, the Cabinet Secretary. It is understood that Scotland Yard, which has been given the file, will interview Mr Hitchen shortly. He is the longest-serving editor on the Press Complaints Commis-

sion, but is expected to leave by the end of the year. Senior members of the commission have expressed disquiet about his part in the Al-Fayed allegations. Mr Hitchen and

his proprietor, Lord Stevens of Ludgate, are good friends of Mohamed Al-Fayed. "They have been to lunch at Harrods and Mr Al-Fayed has gone to lunch at their offices," Michael Cole, publicity director of Harrods, said.

Mr Hitchen, having talked to Mr Al-Fayed, contacted the Prime Minister's private office and met him at Downing Street on September 29, Alex Allen, the Prime Minister's principal private secretary, took a detailed minute.

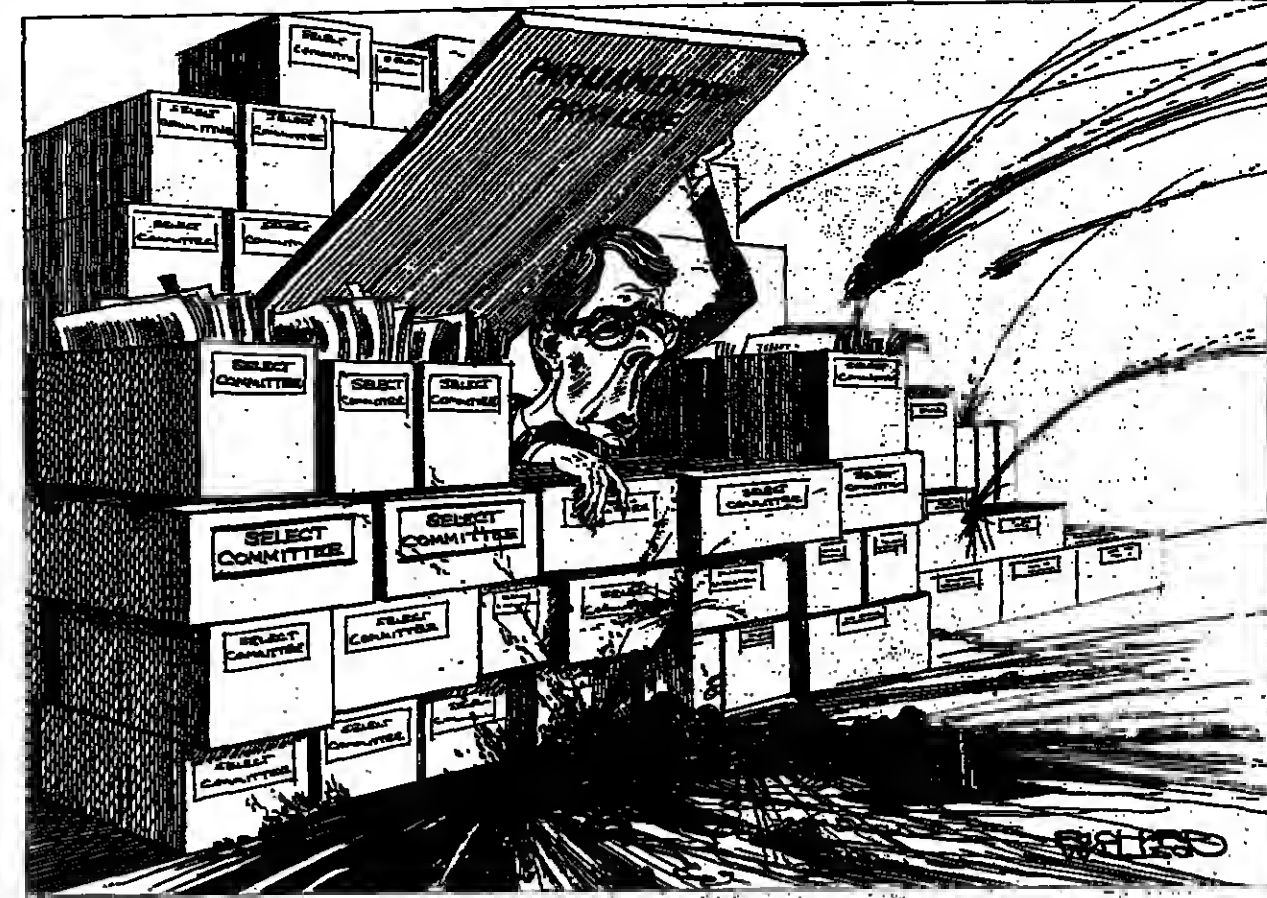
Mr Major, having made clear that he would have to go public on the conversation, but that he would preserve Mr Hitchen's anonymity, then called in Sir Robin to begin an investigation.

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Hitchen: DPP inquiry



## Labour MPs insist on public hearings

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Labour Party is drawing up fresh battle plans to force Tory MPs to hold the Commons cash-for-questions inquiry in public.

Senior Labour figures are preparing to stage a Commons vote next week to stop the privileges committee holding private hearings into claims that two Tory MPs, Graham Riddick and David Tredinnick, were ready to accept £1,000 each.

Talks between the two parties will be held today to try to ease the deadlock threatening the start of the committee's investigation next week. If no compromise is agreed, Labour plans to use an Opposition debate on Monday to try to force the committee into public sittings.

Seven Labour members of the committee refused to attend hearings after Conservative MPs voted last week to hold the inquiry in private.

Senior Tories on the committee are suggesting a compromise of questioning witnesses in private but publishing evidence in full within 24 hours. However, Labour members indicated yesterday that they would not rejoin the committee unless public hearings were held, although witnesses could be allowed to give sensitive evidence behind closed doors.

The stalemate provoked angry Commons exchanges between John Major and Tony Blair, who accused each other of blocking a full investigation into the allegations against Mr Riddick and Mr Tredinnick. Mr Blair seized on the dispute by

telling John Major: "The privileges committee is deadlocked because your members want it to sit in private."

Mr Major retorted that only one fact stopped the proceedings of the privileges committee — and that is that your members won't attend that committee, wholly against any precedent in this House." He added: "You are a lawyer. You know that investigations are in private. When those matters are over, debate is in public. You would change that for your own party advantage."

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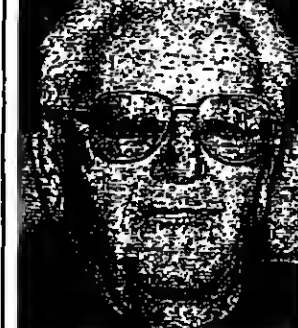
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Ron Hamilton: Major "sacrificed" his son

## Hamilton's parents resign from Tory party

THE father of Neil Hamilton, the sacked trade minister, said yesterday that he and his wife were resigning from the Conservative Party because they felt their son did not receive the support he was due from John Major.

Ron Hamilton, 72, a retired mining engineer, told BBC Radio 4: "I have spoken to the local (Tory) agent and told him I am resigning, and my wife is resigning also, because I don't think Neil has had the support he should have had."

His wife had not slept for a week and was very ill over the issue, he said. "The Prime Minister gave him a clean bill really up until Tuesday, when he was called into the Chief Whip's Office and confronted with some further allegations. Actually, during the interview I understood, one of the allegations was cleared on the spot."

Mr Hamilton senior, from Portsmouth, added: "But at the moment the pressure on him, and the pressure on the Prime Minister probably, has meant he has sacrificed my son from his ministerial job. The only thing Neil can do now is clear his name and then get back into the stream where he was."

A photograph with yesterday's report on the Royal Commission on Environmental Pollution was of Professor Richard Macrory, and not Professor John Lawton. We apologise for the error.

## Room 526

Continued from page 1 speaking French paid the cash sum of 4,257 francs in favour of the account of Mr Ayas.

However, the copy of the letter received by the Cabinet Secretary ended, according to *The Guardian*, at the words "cash sum", the reference to 4,257 francs had gone. Mr Aitken, in his statement about Sir Robin's investigation, makes no reference to the letter.

Sir Robin acknowledged that there were discrepancies in the billing of Mr Aitken's hotel stay. He asked Mr Aitken questions, and was satisfied by the assurances he had given.

It was this which prompted *The Guardian* to say that Mr Aitken had lied to the Cabinet Secretary, an allegation he has strenuously denied. The Ritz declines to comment. The Cabinet Secretary and Mr Major have accepted Mr Aitken's assurances. Downing Street has made clear that Sir Robin was aware of all the facts months ago: there were no revelations in *The Guardian* article.

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## Evans goes to industry

JOHN Major yesterday appointed Jonathan Evans, the MP for Brecon and Radnor, as a parliamentary under-secretary at the Department of Trade and Industry, to replace Neil Hamilton.

Mr Evans, 44, entered Parliament in 1992, when he seized the seat from the Liberal Democrats, who had held it since a 1985 by-election. The majority of 130 makes the constituency the fifth most vulnerable Tory seat.

Mr Evans, a right-wing Welsh solicitor, enters the Government for the first time. He had been serving as a parliamentary private secretary to Sir John Wheeler, the Ulster minister, and previously worked in the same capacity for the former Ulster minister Michael Mates.

## TV company cuts 'shifty' Mellor clip

An ITV company yesterday agreed to a request from David Mellor, MP, to cut unflattering footage of him from a programme broadcast last night. Andy Allen, chief executive of Carlton UK, assured Mr Mellor that although he did not agree that the 30-second clip would depict him as "shifty and evasive", it would be removed from last night's current affairs programme *The Big Story*. Journalists at Twenty-Two Television demanded their names be removed from the closing credits.

## Baby case appeal date

Bernadette and Adrian Mooney, the British couple sentenced to 28 months in jail for buying and trying to smuggle a baby out of Romania, will have their appeal heard on November 9, a judge said in Bucharest yesterday. The couple were convicted on October 14, but are on bail. Mr Mooney, 42, said: "I am surprised it came up so quickly."

## Chambermaid verdict

Sandra Parkinson, 22, the chambermaid whose body was found near a cliff path at Salcombe, Devon, in July, was unlawfully killed, a coroner ruled yesterday. Detective Superintendent Phil Pyke told the inquest at Plymouth that police were satisfied that Alan Cornett, a 32-year-old driver who committed suicide in Cambridgeshire, was her killer.

## Payout for IRA victim, 3

Terry White, 3, of Belfast, was awarded £100,000 damages by the Recorder's Court for injuries he received when he was hit by IRA gunfire at the age of five weeks. She was being cradled by her grandmother, Billy Kingsberry, when gunmen burst into their house in 1991. Mr Kingsberry and Terry's uncle, Sam McHaffey, 19, were shot dead.

## CSA challenge fails

The High Court yesterday refused Andy Farquarson, 48, of Rugby, permission to challenge a Child Support Agency decision. The High Court rejected Mr Farquarson's request to fight the CSA's decision to make maintenance assessments for his two sons, despite being told by his former wife that she did not want the agency to act on her behalf.

## Britons held in Spain

Spanish police have arrested two Britons in the resort of Mijas Costa, seizing hashish valued at £1 million and £250,000 in various currencies. After a chase, the drugs were found in a lorry in which a racing car was being transported. The pair were named last night as Anthony Seddon, of Manchester, and Michael Brown, of Birmingham. A third man escaped.

## God and Bennett

The Pope's book, *Crossing the Threshold of Hope*, has entered the bestseller lists at number two. Only Alan Bennett's diaries, *Writing Home*, are outselling it. The book, in which the Pope answers questions on his views about life, has already sold two million copies worldwide. It was published in Britain last week.



# Public school pals turned to violence and bank robbery

BY GILLIAN BOWDITCH, SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

TWO former public school boys who carried out violent crimes for kicks were jailed yesterday by the High Court in Aberdeen.

Paul Macklin, 21, a Gordonstoun old boy, was sentenced to eight years and Robert Cadiz, 22, received a nine-year term. They were convicted of conspiring to stage a £300,000 armed robbery at gunpoint a branch of the Clydesdale Bank in Aberdeen and Macklin was found guilty of pointing a loaded shotgun at four police officers and of hijacking a motorist at gunpoint.

Grampian Police who carried out the investigation said the two were "adrenalin junkies" who undertook dangerous exploits for thrills and who had an obsession with the military. Police believe they may have killed had they not been caught.

Macklin enjoyed daring exploits and bragged about mimicking James Bond by skiing downhill, and then parachuting over the edge of a precipice. Cadiz, confessed that he got a "buzz" from the bank robbery in which he netted £3,000.

The two men came from privileged backgrounds and "wanted for nothing", the court heard. Defence counsel for the two men said they were unable to explain why the pair had turned to crime.

Relatives wept as Lord Marnoch, the trial judge, handed down the sentences. He told the pair: "You presented a sawn-off shotgun and threatened to shoot no less than four police officers. The presence in public streets of lethal weapons is a very serious matter."

During the eight-day trial, the court heard that the men used a sawn-off Russian shotgun and a Winchester pump-action gun in the crimes. The judge said the ordeal suffered by the hijacked motorist, John

Cumming, 60, had clearly had lasting effects. At least three of their victims were still receiving counselling, including WPC Della Thom, whom Macklin threatened to "blow away" with a sawn-off shotgun.

Police said the pair used their superior intelligence to plan their crimes down to the last detail. Macklin had six



Cadiz: Sandhurst



Macklin: Gordonstoun

convictions for drug offences and theft and was on probation at the time the crimes were committed.

Detective Inspector Ronald Paterson of Grampian Police, who led the inquiry, said he was concerned at the level of violence. "Their actions had gone way beyond psychological domination," he said.

He believed the pair may well have gone on to kill had

they not been stopped. "Both were adrenalin junkies. They committed crimes for kicks and to solve their financial problems."

Hugh Matthews, QC, counsel for Cadiz, said: "This is a tragic fall from grace for a young man from a good background."

Donald Findlay, QC, for Macklin, said his client had appeared to lose his way about two years ago. "I am unable to say how or why it is that a young man of undoubted education and intellect, and from his particular background, should become involved in offences of this type."

The pair met at Robert Gordon's College, Aberdeen's top fee-paying school, after Macklin had left Gordonstoun because of bullying. They shared mutual interests in outdoor sports, skiing, fast cars and glorification of violence. Cadiz, who dropped out of his geography course at St Andrews University, shared Macklin's flat in Aberdeen. Cadiz had been the top Territorial Army graduate from Sandhurst.

The case has given unwelcome added publicity to Gordonstoun, the subject of allegations of bullying in Jonathan Dimbleby's biography of the Prince of Wales.

James Thomas, spokesman for the school, said its philosophy was "Bullying" and that its founder, Kurt Hahn, had stressed compassion and respect.

"We do not even have a cadet force. Bullying is certainly not part of the ethos of the place and we take allegations of bullying very seriously. By bullying I mean being unpleasant, not just physical bullying. We would like to say that there was never any bullying, but it is very unwise to be glib about it. The fact is that if you have 500 young people in a school there is the potential for young people to be unpleasant to each other."



Roz Fernihough celebrates her success in winning compensation from Cosmos in an out-of-court settlement

## Law student wins holiday cash battle

A GROUP of package holidaymakers, led by a 49-year-old law student, yesterday won an out-of-court settlement from a tour company after their Caribbean holiday left them "feeling like prisoners".

Roz Fernihough, a mother of three from Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands, who is in her final year at Birmingham University, had paid £1,526 for a fortnight's half board holiday with her husband Tom, a retired engineer, in the Dominican Republic in March last year.

She said of the Hotel Playa Chiquita in the sunshine resort of Sosua: "The description in the brochure said it was an excellent hotel on a quiet secluded beach which was very popular with Cosmos guests. It boasted large

cheerful bedrooms, a swimming pool and Jacuzzi, two restaurants, a casino and disco. "It sounded ideal. But when we got there it was more like Fawley Towers. We couldn't sleep in our room because it was right next to the disco and my husband nearly got electrocuted from some bare wires when he went to the toilet."

"We complained to the Cosmos rep and were moved to another room. But its roof leaked and we had to keep moving our bed round to find a dry patch."



The Caribbean hotel's restaurant, which was closed

advised in the brochure wasn't open and the food in the breakfast bar was indescribably awful, so we had to eat out, even though we paid for half board. People who ate at the hotel ended up with tummy bugs."

Mrs Fernihough added: "We felt like prisoners in the hotel. It was just so awful. I was so angry and upset that we decided to take the next flight home. But the rep told us the flight was full so we decided to hand together with the others and take a private action against Cosmos."

She spent 18 months preparing the case for court.

getting help on the way from her text books and tutors. "I'm not legally qualified and had to do a lot of research into the legal procedures."

"We earned too much to get legal aid but we were not rich enough to afford solicitors' fees if we had lost."

Yesterday, the group travelled to Birmingham from across the country formally to accept a payment into court by Cosmos of £5,500 plus costs, which could come to the same amount again.

Mrs Fernihough said afterwards: "It's such a relief that we've won. I love the law but it's very stressful when you are your own client."

"We got the best deal we could given the present legal system, which is absolutely chaotic and virtually impossible for the ordinary man to bring a successful private action in court."

Cosmos said: "It is always Cosmos's policy to seek, if at all possible, an amicable settlement of any dispute and to restore and retain the goodwill of its customers. We are delighted that we have resolved this dispute to the satisfaction of all parties concerned."

## Defendant pleads for pause in trial

BY ROBIN YOUNG

THE former Gordonstoun pupil on trial at the Old Bailey for the alleged murder of a stranger pleaded inability to continue his evidence yesterday after his mother fainted in the public gallery.

Jamie Petrolini, 19, had agreed with Conrad Seagroatt QC that he had talked to his Roman Catholic priest about the possibility that his co-defendant, Richard Elsey, was possessed by the devil. Mr Petrolini said: "I thought about all the poems Mr Elsey had written about being in league with Lucifer and I explained that to the medical staff."

As Mr Seagroatt defended Mr Elsey, continued to cross-examine Mr Petrolini about a psychiatrist's report, his mother Vanda slumped against her husband and appeared to faint. She was assisted from the public gallery, and a note was passed to Judge Denison, the Common Sergeant of London, who announced that the jury

had asked for a break. After the break, Mr Petrolini returned and said: "Your Honour, I don't think I can continue."

Earlier, Mr Petrolini had firmly denied Mr Seagroatt's suggestions that he, and not Mr Elsey, had taken charge of a weekend expedition to London, which ended with Mr Petrolini stabbing to death Mohammed el-Sayed, the Egyptian-born chef who was driving alone in the Bayswater area of London. Mr Petrolini admits manslaughter on grounds of diminished responsibility. Both men deny murder.

Mr Seagroatt said that Mr Petrolini had given Mr Elsey orders, but Mr Petrolini said he had thought he had been set a test for initiation to the military. Mr Petrolini claims Mr Elsey had told him he was going on an expedition with the SAS.

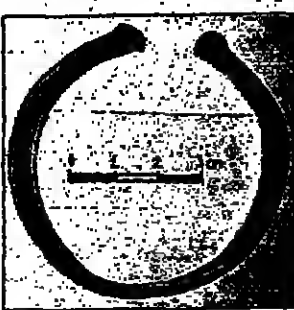
When asked about the account of the killing, he had given to police, Mr

Petrolini said: "I don't think in the state of mind I was in I was able to fabricate anything and get away with it."

David Calvert-Smith, prosecuting, referred to school reports from Mr Petrolini's housemaster at Gordonstoun, Mr Goss, which spoke of him as "always very determined to get things right and thoughtfully compassionate towards younger members of the house."

Mr Goss also wrote that Mr Petrolini had been "desperately anxious to succeed, desperately anxious to prove himself to his friends and his parents". Mr Petrolini remarked that he was desperately anxious to make friends, not to impress them.

Mr Petrolini said that when he went to a private college in Oxford to read A levels, he had tried to put behind him ambitions for a military career but was influenced by Mr Elsey who took him to a recruitment office. The trial continues.



One of the bracelets

## Trinket was Bronze Age treasure

BY LIN JENKINS

A WOMAN who found an attractive trinket while feeding chickens in the garden and kept it on her windowsill has been told it will net her a small fortune.

Gill Ferguson discovered that the bangle unearthed in her mother-in-law's garden in Birstall, Leicestershire, was a Bronze Age bracelet only when another was found and her son showed it to his history teacher.

The gold bracelets, dating from between 1,000BC and 700BC, are believed to have come from the same workshop and to have been made for important people. An inquest jury at Loughborough declared them treasure trove after a hearing on Wednesday. The Ferguson family will now be given the market value by the British Museum, a sum decided by an independent committee based on other examples sold at auction.



Beatrice Ferguson: "I'm not a lucky person"

by Mrs Ferguson and the second was unearthed almost a year later by her mother-in-law Beatrice Ferguson, 70. Gill Ferguson said: "It has not sunk in yet. I have no idea what the value of the bracelets is and even now I don't believe we'll get a substantial amount. I can't believe that I had the bracelets sitting on my kitchen windowsill for months. Eventually my son Lee took it to show his history teacher and he had it dated by a museum."

Her mother-in-law said: "I can't believe it. I hadn't even thought of their value until

now. I'm not usually a lucky person."

Dr Ian Kinnes, assistant keeper at the British Museum, said the first bangle was 82 per cent pure gold and the second 88 per cent. He described how similar bangles had been discovered all over Europe and were always buried in groups of two to four, but said there was no evidence that they were used in burials.

"These bangles are rare in terms of content and value. Back in the Bronze Age they would have been a display of wealth and prestige," he said.

## Getty loses last round of fight for the Graces

BY DALYA ALBERGE, ARTS CORRESPONDENT

CANOVAS' "Three Graces" is to stay in Britain after the Court of Appeal rejected the Getty Museum's application for a judicial review yesterday.

However, its new owners may have to compensate the vendors with the interest they would have gained from a sale to America. One estimate suggests that the Victoria & Albert Museum and National Galleries of Scotland will have to pay Fine Art Investments as much as £100,000 after struggling to raise the £7.6 million needed to match the Americans' purchase price.

Fine Art Investments, which bought the sculpture in 1983, was awaiting a licence to export it to the Getty Museum in California when Stephen Dorrell, the Heritage Secretary, decided in August to extend the deadline for granting a licence, allowing the British museums more time to raise the necessary money. Yesterday Lords Justices Neill, Hoffmann and Henry rejected the Getty Museum's argument that Mr Dorrell acted unlawfully and unreasonably.

The museums must prove to the Heritage Department by November 5 that they have raised the money. The V&A said that it did not believe the interest payments to be "a major stumbling block."

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# Doubts over GCSE grades prompt call for testing vigilance

By BEN PRESTON, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

GCSE examination boards were ordered last night to take urgent action to safeguard standards after government advisers cast doubt on the value of grades awarded to tens of thousands of candidates this summer.

Gillian Shepherd, the Education Secretary, demanded that procedures for all subjects be tightened immediately to guarantee consistent grading between the five boards.

In a move indicating the scale of doubts surrounding the policing of GCSEs, Mrs Shepherd also announced a review to consider ways of cutting the number of rival syllabuses offered by the

boards in English, mathematics and science from 1998.

Mrs Shepherd's intervention followed the interim findings of an investigation by the School Curriculum and Assessment Authority into "apparent discrepancies" between parents' perceptions of the value of grades awarded and the actual grades awarded in mathematics and science this summer. There was a 51 per cent increase in the proportion of entries achieving a grade B in combined science and a 44 per cent rise in mathematics.

The inquiry focused on two boards, the Southern Examining Group and the University of London Examinations and Assessment Council, where

the increase in grade Bs was significantly higher.

Sir Ron Dearing, chairman of the authority, said in an interim report that after taking factors raised by examiners into account, there remained "differential increases between groups which in some cases exceeded the normal variations".

However, while conducting the investigation, officials grew concerned that "variations in examination style, marking arrangements and the emphases placed on the different kinds of evidence when grade boundaries are set make consistency of standards across syllabuses and examining groups hard to guarantee and demonstrate". This task was complicated further by the number of syllabuses on offer.

The authority found that a new code of practice, introduced this year to answer serious concerns raised by government inspectors in 1992, was being interpreted differently by the boards. Sir Ron said: "These procedural uncertainties were not helpful at a time of intensive activity."

Mrs Shepherd responded by announcing a series of measures to be introduced in time for examinations next month taken by up to 250,000 candidates. They include strengthening the rules for determining grades are clear, consistent and robust, and improving communications between examining groups.

The grades of pupils who took mathematics and science examinations with the two boards under investigation will stand whatever the outcome of the inquiry.

## Rules on sacking help bad teachers

By OUR EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

HEAD teachers wanting to sack incompetent staff are being frustrated by cumbersome procedures that can drag on for two years, a survey published today says.

Seven out of ten secondary schools say they have at least one incompetent teacher and five out of ten want to take action. The survey found, however, that almost half of these are put off by the cumbersome procedures.

The findings follow a warning by Chris Woodhead, the Chief Inspector of Schools, that the education of thousands of pupils is being jeopardised by bad teachers. Inspectors estimate that almost one in three lessons in

state schools is unsatisfactory. Incompetency procedures vary between local authorities, but they generally start with counselling and informal advice about improving performance. This is followed by formal verbal and written warnings, against which the teacher may appeal, and the involvement of outside inspectors before a decision is reached.

The survey, based on interviews with 50 head teachers for the Channel 4 programme *Class Action*, to be broadcast tonight, found that many teachers accused of incompetence took early retirement before proceedings started against them.



Laura Weston of the Old Royal Observatory in Greenwich shows off London's only camera obscura, which opens to the public today. The "dark room" allows observers to see outside vistas in exceptional colour on a viewing table

## Stonyhurst joins ban on rubella vaccination

By PAUL WILKINSON

A SECOND Roman Catholic school has dropped out of the Government's German measles vaccination programme on moral grounds.

The Jesuit-run Stonyhurst College has joined Ampleforth in deciding that it will not participate in the anti-rubella campaign because the vaccine was originally cultured from cells taken from an aborted foetus.

On Monday when the 400 pupils return to Stonyhurst near Clitheroe, Lancashire, after half-term they will be offered a measles-only injection bought privately by the school. It will also be offered to the 120 boys in the college's prep school, St Mary's. Apart from six girls in the sixth form, Stonyhurst is an all-boys school.

Wilfred Usher, deputy head, said the decision had been taken by Dr Giles Mercer, the headmaster, who had instructed medical staff not to offer the vaccination "following confirmation that the vaccine was cultured from an aborted foetus".

The decision by Stonyhurst and the Benedictine-run Ampleforth is opposed to advice from the Roman Catholic bishops' conference of England and Wales. A briefing paper on the vaccine was prepared for Bishop Christopher Budd, chairman of the department for Christian responsibility, which said that parents "can be assured that there is no general obligation to refuse permission. Consenting does not condone abortion."

The paper acknowledged that some people might take "a prophetic stand" against accepting any benefit from an abortion and were entitled to refuse the vaccination.

## Britain to deport Kurdish leader

By RICHARD FORD  
ROME CORRESPONDENT

A LEADER of a Kurdish guerrilla movement is to be deported after being arrested at Westminster on his way to meet a Labour MP and a peer.

The Government was last night trying to find a third country willing to accept Kani Yilmaz rather than return him to Turkey where he was wanted for questioning. Mr Yilmaz, chief spokesman in Europe for the PKK, which is fighting a guerrilla campaign against the Turkish authorities for Kurdish independence, was being held in Rochester prison, Kent. Immigration officers yesterday served him with a deportation order. The Home Office said: "He is being deported because his presence is not conducive to the public good, and in the interests of national security."

Mr Yilmaz, who arrived in Britain legally on Sunday, was on his way to meet John Austin-Walker, MP for Woolwich, and Lord Avebury, the Liberal Democrat peer, when he was arrested on Wednesday night. There were protests outside Charing Cross police station and Paddington Green station where Mr Yilmaz was held.



Yilmaz was on way to meeting at Parliament

## Bug linked to stunted growth

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

GIRLS infected with a common stomach bacterium suffer from stunted growth, a study of 500 Edinburgh children has shown.

*Helicobacter pylori* is already linked to ulcers, gastritis and gastric cancer. Now a team from St George's Hospital Medical School in London has shown that infection with the bacterium causes a loss of growth of up to an inch over four years.

The survey also produced evidence that the children were catching the bacterium at school. Dr Praful Patel of St George's said yesterday: "We know that once you catch the bacterium, you have it for life," he said. "We know about its links to ulcers, but now we have shown that it can have

effects outside the stomach as well."

The study looked at 554 children from 30 Edinburgh primary schools, measuring height at age 7 and 11, and detecting the presence of the bacterium in saliva. It found that 11 per cent of the children were infected, and that they tended to come from the poorest and most overcrowded homes, or go to schools serving council estates.

Dr Patel said infection with *H pylori* was often acquired by the age of 10, and it remained in the stomach for decades. The results of the study, published in the *British Medical Journal*, show that school is a more likely place of infection than home.

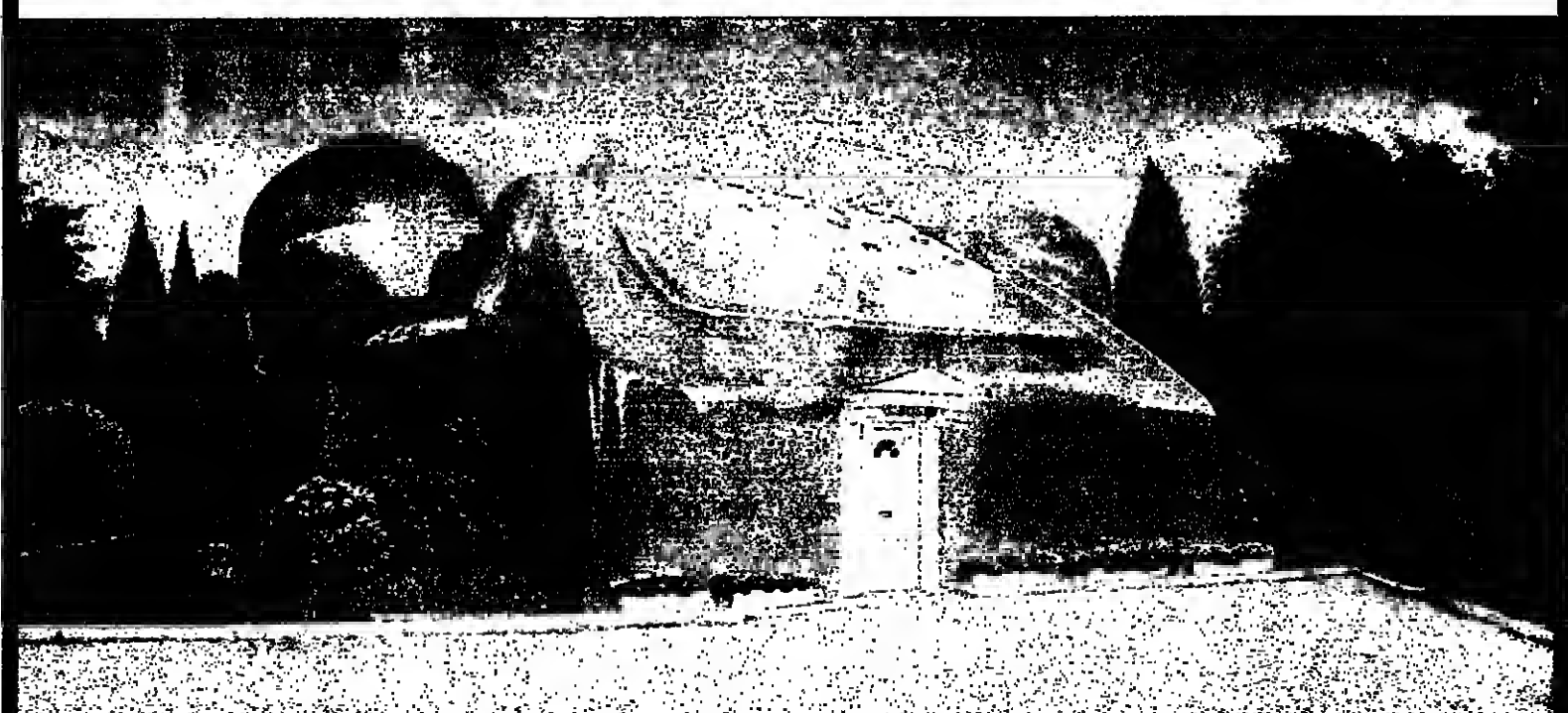
When the heights of the

children were measured, girls with the infection had grown significantly less than the uninfected ones. Boys showed a smaller effect, but Dr Patel suspects this may be because the girls were infected just before puberty.

*H pylori* can be eliminated by using a cocktail of three drugs, but the perfect therapy has yet to be devised. Dr Patel said the question of eradicating the bug in children needed to be carefully considered.

"We have to decide who to treat, when to treat them and what drugs to use. Treating them too early would probably mean they would be re-infected, and we still haven't got a magic drug that will eliminate the bacterium in every case."

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# Passenger sues over tie that went awry

By Joe Joseph



Roach: "Horribly embarrassed" about tie incident

BRITISH Rail yesterday escaped being dunned in court for £700,000 in damages. Its crime? A passenger thought that a ticket seller had overstepped the mark when, uninvited, he leant over and straightened the passenger's tie.

The case at Coventry County Court was brought by Ion Roach, 67, of Coventry, who claimed that the BR clerk had impudently assaulted him. The trouble started when Mr Roach reached the ticket counter of Coventry Station last year. His lime green and buff polyester tie — which less lenient judges might think criminally provocative in itself — was reversed. The counter clerk helpfully adjusted it.

Mr Roach, who is blind in his right eye, told Judge John Wilson: "The clerk was strangely silent. After he handed me my ticket and receipt he disappeared from my sight and started fumbling at my throat and said something like 'Let me'."

Mr Roach thanked him and left without complaint. But he told yesterday's hearing: "It affected me terribly. I was horribly embarrassed. I am not accustomed to physical contact."

John Goodband, the tie-

straightening clerk who has worked for BR for 14 years, told the court: "I noticed his tie was reversed and asked if he was aware it was. He smiled and continued to stand in front of me and did not say anything. At the same time I leant forward and straightened his tie. It was all over in a split second. He said 'Thank you' and said he had had trouble with the tie since he bought it."

Gary Thornett, for the defence, said that Mr Roach had originally claimed £700,000 damages in the High Court, but the case had been transferred to the County Court. He asked Mr Roach why he had not complained at the time. Mr Roach replied that he was too shocked.

Judge Wilson dismissed the case, awarding costs against Mr Roach. "There is no doubt," he said, "that Mr Goodband adjusted the tie. The dispute is about consent. The plaintiff's case fails to establish there was a trespass against the person. There was implied consent and at the time he was not upset."

Mr Roach now wants to appeal. After the hearing, he said: "I think the clerk was impudent. It was an infringement of my personal space."



Goodband: adjusted Mr Roach's reversed tie

## Judge in threat to subpoena Bottomley

By Richard Duce

A JUDGE threatened yesterday to seek the court appearance of Virginia Bottomley, the Health Secretary, to explain why no hospital bed can be found for a "mentally handicapped kidnapper".

Judge Langland, QC, said he was scandalised at the present lack of care for Stephen Hart, 34, and that unless a secure hospital bed was found for him in the next fortnight he would take "such steps in my power" to bring Mrs Bottomley to court to explain why. The judge said at the Old Bailey: "The situation we are now in is a disgrace. Here is a man in need of secure care and it is outrageous that the resources are not available to provide what the public requires for their protection and what he needs for treatment."

Hart, from Stepney, east London, was convicted of abducting an eight-year-old boy and holding him captive in a wardrobe for two days.

The judge, before whom Hart appeared yesterday for sentence, said: "Unless this problem is sorted out within two weeks I shall require the attendance of the Secretary of State to explain to me. It's a bold move but I think the situation demands it."

## Vandals force halt to free bike plan

By Gillian Bowditch  
SCOTLAND CORRESPONDENT

A FREE bicycle scheme in the university town of St Andrews in Fife has been abandoned after more than 100 bicycles were stolen or vandalised.

The "green bike" scheme was introduced in 1992 in an attempt to prevent bicycle theft. Cyclists could pick up the free bicycles from racks in the town and return them after use. It was the first scheme of its kind in Scotland and was modelled on a project in Amsterdam. Another similar scheme in Cambridge was abandoned last year after thefts and vandalism.

The first 70 bicycles disappeared in St Andrews in a matter of months. Some were kept by their users, others were vandalised and many were dumped in streams or in the harbour.

In August 40 more bicycles were made available but they disappeared within days. WPC Thora Tøgher said: "It's a great pity the scheme has not worked but you cannot keep feeding the lion. A few people are determined to spoil the scheme."

While the scheme was in operation, bicycle thefts reported by members of the public fell from 184 to 129 over a year.

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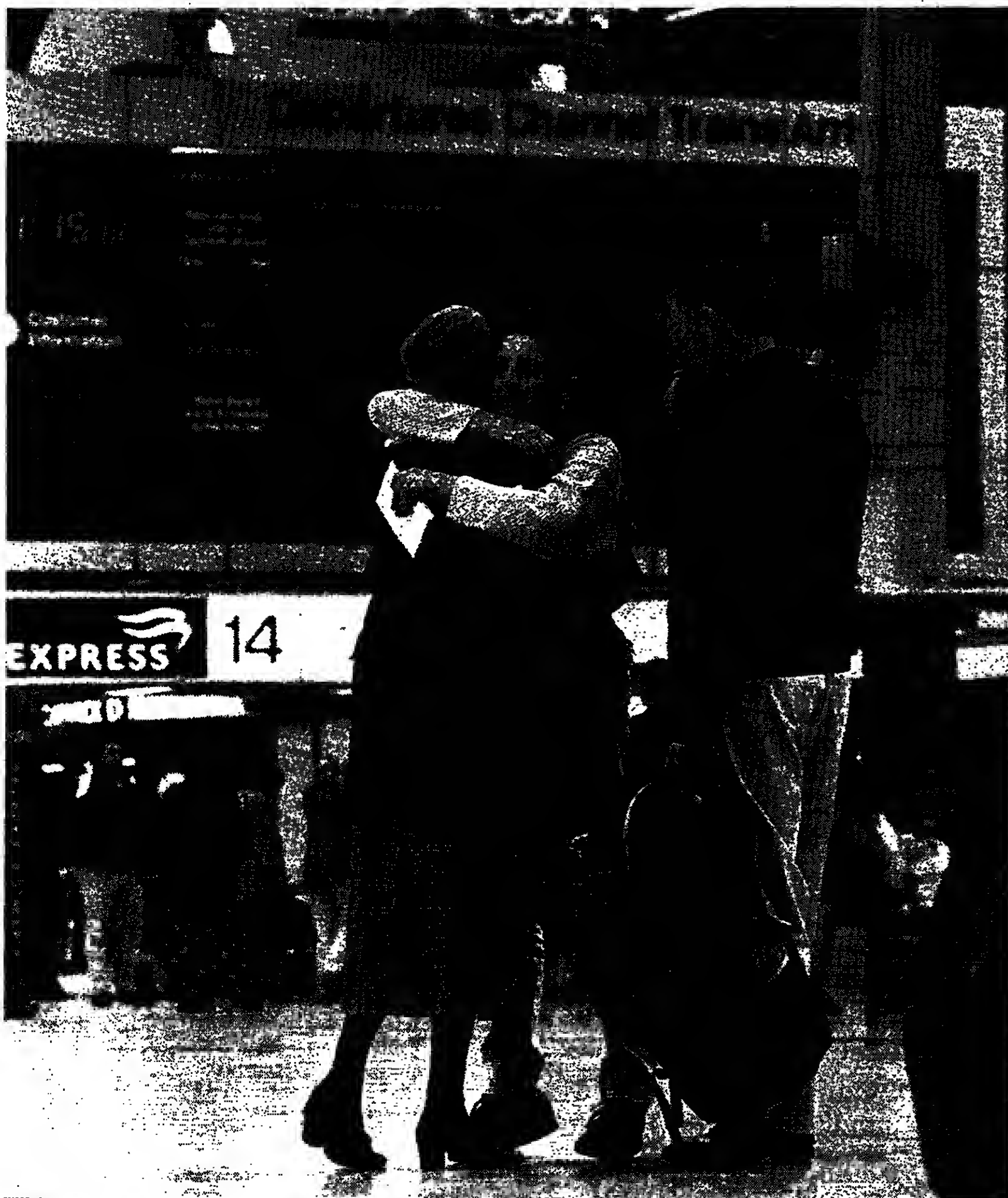
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## SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

Dealer North Love all, rubber bridge

♠ 10 8 4 2	♥ 10 8 7 2	♦ 10 8 5	♣ 10 8 4 2
♠ 9 4	♥ 9 4	♦ 9 4	♣ 9 4
♠ 3	♥ 3	♦ 3	♣ 3
♠ A 9 3	♥ A 9 3	♦ A 9 3	♣ A 9 3
♠ K 7 5	♥ K 7 5	♦ K 7 5	♣ K 7 5
♠ J 7 3	♥ J 7 3	♦ J 7 3	♣ J 7 3
W	N	E	S
Pass	1NT (1)	Pass	3♦ (3)
All pass	4♦ (2)	Pass	5♦ (2)
Opening lead: ♥Q			

(1) Weak NT (12-14 points)  
(2) A so-called "advance club bid". If North could not support diamonds he would sign off in 3NT. Hence when he bids Four Clubs he implies he has diamond support and is showing the ace of clubs.  
(3) Sign-off: He does not have enough for a slam try.

By Robert Sheehan  
BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT

When this hand was played at TGR's Bridge Club, North, East and South all played low on the first trick. West continued hearts, and the declarer ruffed East's ace. After drawing trumps he played a club to the queen and king.

When East returned a low spade, South was in a quandry. Eventually he put up

the ace of spades and when the clubs failed to break went one down.

What South should do after drawing trumps is to play ace of clubs and a low club. He will then know whether the clubs will provide four tricks before having to make a decision on the spade suit. As the cards lie, he will take the spade finesse to make his contract.

## THE TIMES Lottery Prize Draw

### 21,000 National Lottery tickets to be won

Tickets for the National Lottery go on sale on Monday November 14, and with a top prize of £2m expected when the first draw takes place on Saturday November 19, lottery fever is starting to grip the nation. The Times, in association with The Sunday Times, is offering readers an additional chance to become overnight millionaires with our great lottery tickets prize draw.

Week three of our competition offers you the chance to win up to 10,000 lottery tickets to be purchased on your behalf. Each has a one in 54 chance of winning a prize.

Our teams of ticket buyers will purchase 21,000 official lottery tickets on behalf of our winning readers with randomly generated numbers for entry into the November 19 prize draw.

Continuing over the next two weeks, we are publishing a total of 24 tokens. Collect 20 tokens and you can enter our prize draw twice. Collect all 24 from The Times and the 16 tokens which will appear in The Sunday Times and you can enter the draw four times.

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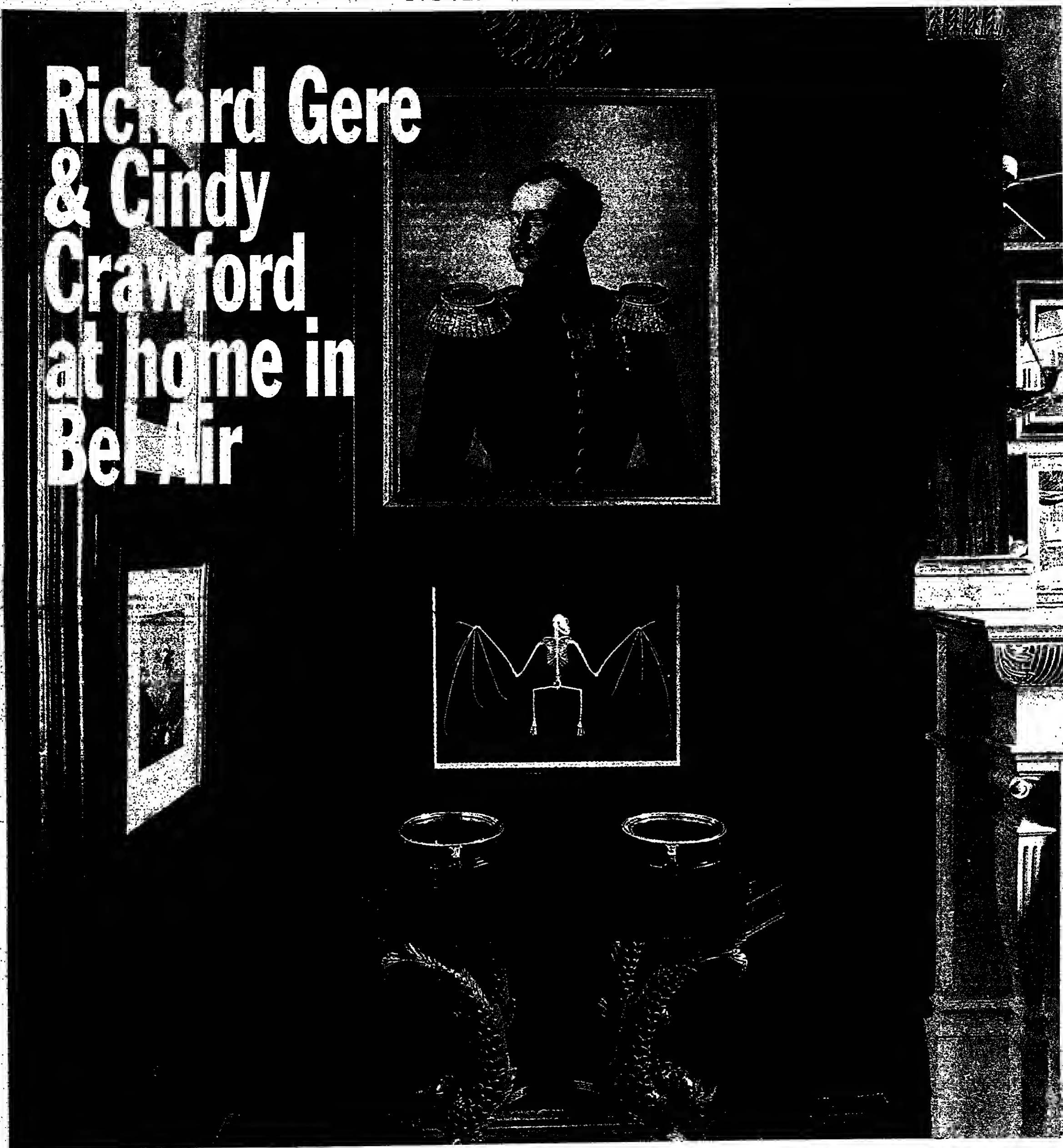
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# Legal reform could declare Latin phrases ultra vires

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

PROPOSALS to streamline procedures under which the public can challenge government and local authority decisions in court were unveiled by the Law Commission yesterday. They include replacing Latin terms with English.

The report recommends that the names of remedies sought under judicial review should no longer be mandamus, prohibition or certiorari, but mandatory, restraining and quashing orders. It says that although it was recognised that there were limits to the extent to which legal terminology could be made accessible to lay people, it was desirable that it should be as understandable as possible.

Professor Jack Beatson, in charge of the commission's study of judicial review procedures, said at a press conference in London he thought that there might be some criticism of the recommendation to end the use of Latin terms.

He said: "Certiorari is a word which most law students cannot even pronounce, let alone understand. I suspect the commission might get some flak for introducing trendy language, but I think it is an important part of making law more accessible."

Asked whether the commission should have introduced plainer English terms, he said: "We may not have gone far,

but that is as far as we were prepared to go."

The commission suggests another measure aimed at modernising the process. It wants to change the existing terms, in which people "seek leave" for judicial review, and call it "preliminary consultation" because the present language creates an impression that the public are supplicants before the law.

In an effort to speed up the initial phase of judicial review, the commission recommends that judges should deal with the matter on paper rather than in oral hearings. It also suggests that at the preliminary phase judges should be given a new power in "request

information" from local authorities and governments to help to clarify issues.

The commission also wants it made clear that the judicial review is open to pressure groups as well as individuals.

Demands for change have increased as the judiciary has struggled to cope with the growth of legal challenges to government. There were 525 applications in 1980 for leave to bring judicial review proceedings, 2,439 in 1992 and 2,886 last year. In the first seven months of this year there were 1,851 applications for leave, which compared with 1,725 for the same period in 1993.

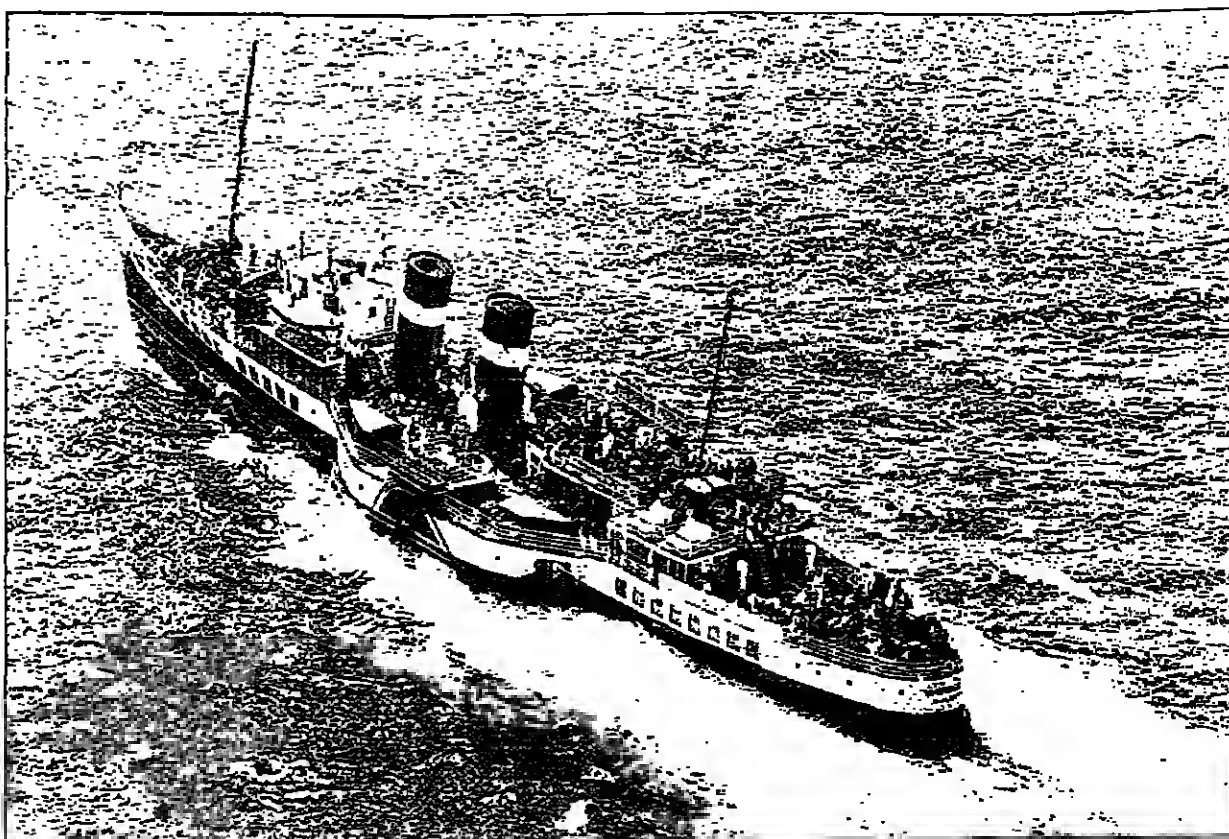
When the commission began its work two years ago there was concern over delays. However, waiting times for a hearing before a single judge dropped from two to one year in 1993-94 and in the divisional court from 10.2 months to 7.3 months.

Lord Mackay of Clashfern, the Lord Chancellor, is to publish a consultation paper next month aimed at preventing wealthy people obtaining a fortune in legal aid to fight criminal and civil cases. He said: "The money available for legal aid is not limitless and one of my objectives is that it should be targeted to those whose need is greatest."

Leading article, page 21



Beatson: making the law more accessible



The steamship Waverley, the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world, is enormously popular with the public

## A new chance to sail the Severn Sea

By NICK NUTTALL, ENVIRONMENT CORRESPONDENT

FERRIES will be criss-crossing the Bristol Channel again soon under plans to cut car use and boost tourism.

The scheme's backers — civic societies, local authorities and development agencies — believe that restoring regular passenger services on the "Severn Sea" is economically feasible and environmentally attractive.

Philip Beisly, of the Civic Trust, said yesterday that restoring regular services across the channel, from the mouth of the Avon to north Devon, would also restore water links between coastal communities that have existed since prehistoric times. The trust believes the scheme could revitalise Severn coastal

towns and cities while helping to secure coastal monuments such as piers and harbours.

The project, being studied by consultants appointed by the backers, has the support of more than 30 councils, tourist boards and development bodies. They include Cardiff City Council, the Welsh Tourist Board, the Cardiff Bay Development Corporation, Avon County Council and Woodspring District Council in Somerset.

Mr Beisly said they had been prompted to try to restore Severn estuary routes after the success of the paddle steamer Waverley, the last sea-going paddle steamer in the world, which is operated

by the Paddle Steamer Preservation Society. It operates around the British coastline and was hugely popular when last in the Bristol Channel.

Restoring old routes could revive the heyday of the steamer. Between the wars they plied between ports such as Tenby, Swansea, Ilfracombe, Clevedon, Portcawl, Cardiff, Newport, Clevedon and Weston-super-Mare.

The last regular service in the Channel is believed to have disappeared in the 1960s, victim of improved road links such as the Severn bridge. Backers believe that new technology in ferries means boats will operate faster and more efficiently than in the past.

### NEWS IN BRIEF

#### Boys stoned swan 'just for a laugh'

Two boys aged 12 and 14 stoned a young swan to death "just for a laugh", a court was told. Magistrates in Melton Mowbray, Leicestershire, heard that the children threw stones at the bird before dropping a brick on its head from a canal bridge.

David Cooper, for the prosecution, said it was unusual for the RSPCA to prosecute juveniles, but it did so because the case was so serious. The boys, from Melton, were given a conditional discharge and their parents were ordered to pay £200 costs.

#### Fatal crash

Emily Fowler, 67, of Grasmere, Cumbria, and her granddaughter, Holly Fowler, 5, of Keswick, died in a head-on crash with a lorry. Mrs Fowler's husband James, 68, was in a critical condition in the Royal Lancaster Infirmary after the crash at Bolton-le-Sands.

#### Speed trap

Rally car engineers are helping to produce the latest generation of 140mph police cars. A modified Ford Escort RS Cosworth is undergoing trials with Humberside Police, who hope its acceleration — from 0mph to 60mph in 3.7 seconds — will deter joyriders who steal 50 cars a day.

#### Father killed

Carl Mason, 26, was fatally injured in a car accident on his way to see his newborn daughter. Mr Mason, of Milom, Cumbria, died in Furness General Hospital in Barrow, a few yards away from his wife Bernadette and their baby. Their other daughter Julie, 4, was also in the car.

#### WPC dies

A police officer died after a training session with the long-handled baton at the Peel Centre, Hendon. WPC Gail Pirnie, 42, had been with the Metropolitan Police for 20 years. A post-mortem examination will be carried out.

#### D-Day honour

Ted Eaglen, 69, of Boston, Lincolnshire, has finally received the Military Medal he won on D-Day in 1944, after it was initially awarded to another man with a similar sounding name.

#### Heroin death

William Granam Britain, 29, was found dead in a Bangkok bedsit of a heroin overdose. He is the son of Roger Britain, a former diplomat.

#### Washed away

Three hundred tons of sand put down to form a new bathing beach at Burnham-on-Crouch, Essex, disappeared when the tide came in.

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**KEENE on CHESS**

By RAYMOND KEENE  
CHESS CORRESPONDENT

**Queen sacrifice**

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White: Swan  
Black: Molet  
Guernsey International, October 1994

**Sicilian Defence**

1 e4	c5
2 Nf3	Nc6
3 d4	exd4
4 Nxd4	Nf6
5 Nc3	e5
6 Nd5	exd5
7 Bg5	h6
8 Na3	b5
9 Bxf6	gxf6
10 Nf5	h5
11 Bxb5	axb5
12 Nxb5	Qg5
13 O-O	Rg8
14 g3	Rg6
15 a4	h4

**Checkmating position**

8  
7  
6  
5  
4  
3  
2  
1

a b c d e f g h

Winning Move, page 48

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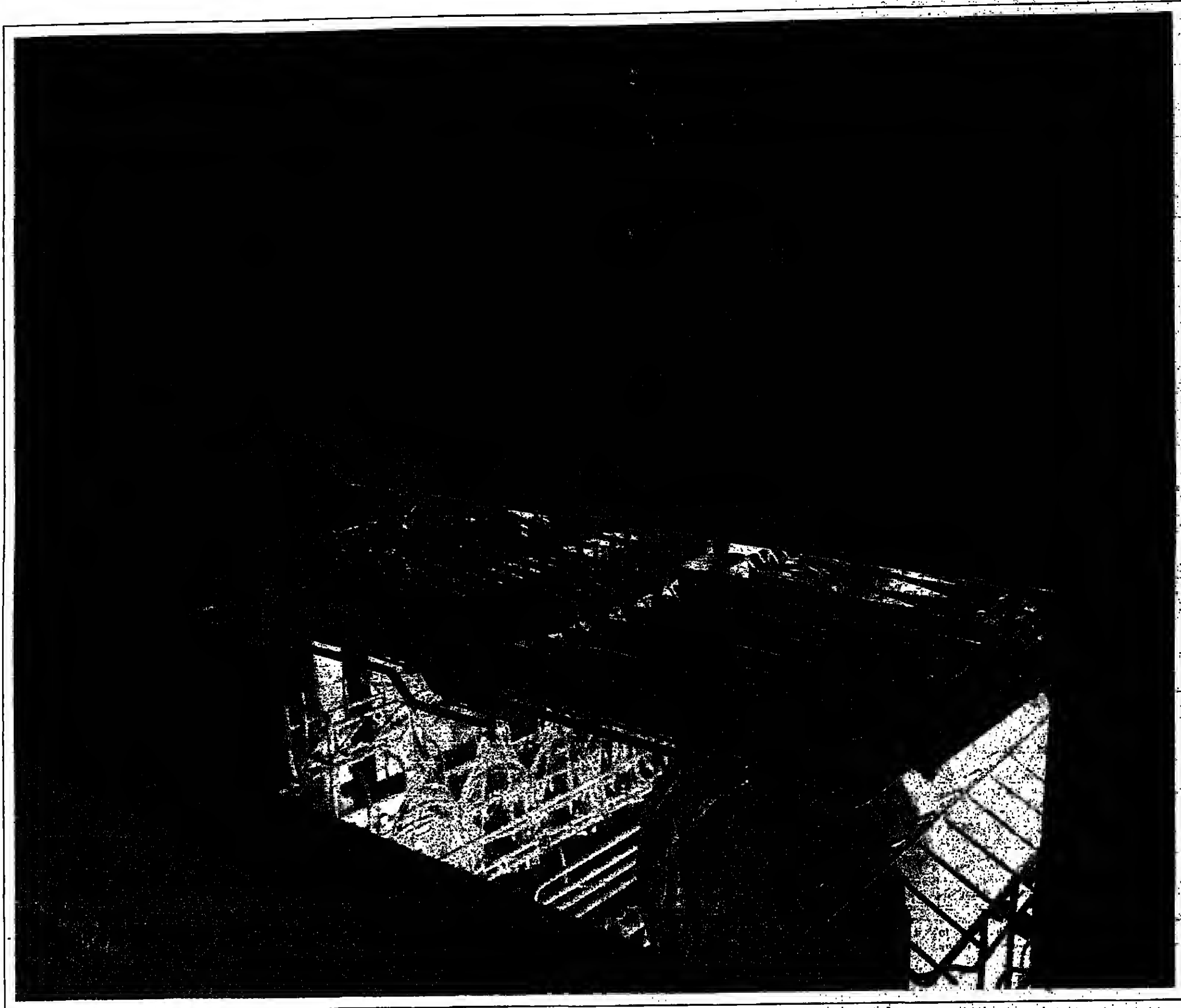


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Poll shows Lib Dems slipping and Tories struggling to recover lost ground

## Blair raises Labour to new height of popularity

By Peter Riddell

LABOUR has risen to its highest ever opinion poll rating as the Blair effect has squeezed support for the Liberal Democrats down to its lowest level since January last year.

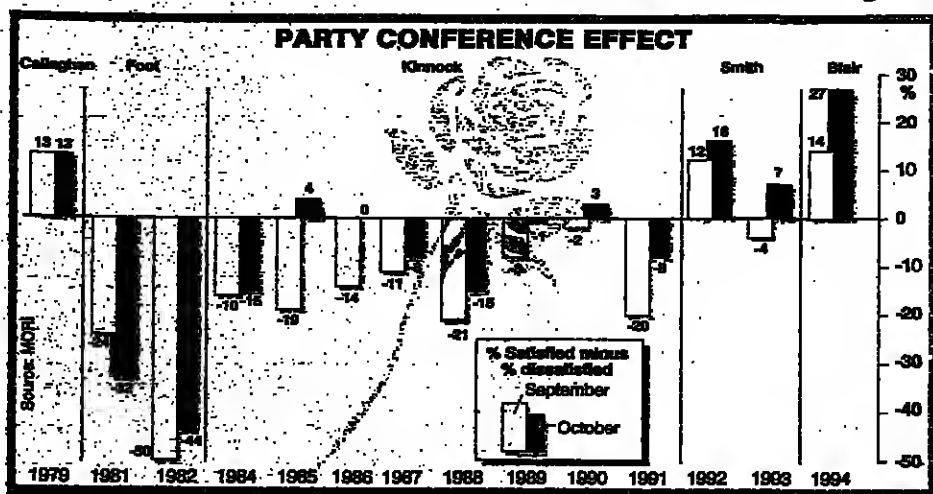
The latest MORI poll for *The Times*, undertaken between last Friday and Monday, shows that support for Labour has risen ten points since John Smith died in May and speculation began about the election of Tony Blair. Over the same period support for the Liberal Democrats has dropped by nine points.

Labour now stands at a record 57 per cent, up three points over the past month, while the Tories have remained unchanged on 25 per cent and the Liberal Democrats have slipped three points to 14 per cent. This compares with the Liberal Democrats' vote share of 18 per cent at the general election.

This shift reflects the big impact which Mr Blair made at the Labour conference three weeks ago and the impression of confidence and division at the Liberal Democrat conference in mid-September.

Like other pollsters, MORI now adjusts its figures to take account of the tendency of Tory supporters not to state their voting intentions. If the current "don't knows" are adjusted by reported votes at the 1992 general election, the Tory share of the vote emerges four points higher, at 29 per cent, with Labour four points lower at 53 per cent. The Liberal Democrat share is unchanged on 14 per cent.

Mr Blair's personal rating has risen to by far the highest level for any Labour leader



since the party lost office in May 1979. His approval index, which shows the satisfied proportion minus the dissatisfied proportion, stands at plus 27 points, compared with plus 14 points at the end of September. It is well above the level Mr Smith managed during almost two years of leadership.

The post-conference boost for Mr Blair is the largest for



Ashdown: personal rating still positive

any Labour leader apart from Neil Kinnock in 1985 and 1986, when his rating was improved by his attack on the hard-left party leadership in Liverpool. Mr Blair's rating is least favourable among those aged 55 to 64, the unskilled working-class and the unemployed. Working-class trade union members approve of his performance by a 3½ to 1 margin.

The special questions on party image this month show that Mr Blair has helped to change the way that people view the party as a whole. For instance, since March the proportion saying that Labour will promise anything to win votes has dropped from 34 to 27 per cent, the lowest level for more than a decade.

The number believing that Labour has a good team of leaders has risen from 14 to 21 per cent, while those believing that the party understands the problems facing Britain has risen from 30 to 36 per cent. There have also been increases in the number believ-

ing that the party represents all classes, has sensible policies and is concerned about the people in real need in Britain. Fewer people regard Labour as divided than at any time over the past decade.

By contrast, the Liberal Democrats' image has slipped, along with its rating, as fewer people believe the party has sensible policies, or understands the problems facing Britain. Paddy Ashdown's personal rating has, however, remained positive, though it is less favourable than it was earlier this year. He is also still regarded positively by Liberal Democrat supporters, by a margin of six to one.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,836 adults at 141 constituency sampling points across Britain. Interviews were conducted face-to-face on October 20 to 24. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Voting intention figures exclude those who say they would not vote (7 per cent), are undecided (7 per cent) or refuse to name a party (6 per cent).



Mr Blair at the party conference. His performance there boosted his lead in the polls

## Law and order concern grows

MORE people are concerned about law and order than at any time over the past decade, according to the MORI poll.

The number of people mentioning law and order as among the most important issues facing Britain today has risen over the past month to 37 per cent, compared with 33 per cent previously.

This is roughly double the level of mentions from mid-1989 until early last year. The

greatest level of concern about law and order is among people aged 55 to 64, those living in northern England and supporters of the Conservative Party.

The increase in mentions coincides with a period of greater government activism on law and order as Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has outlined a series of initiatives and two big Bills, on criminal justice and the

police, have gone through Parliament.

Unemployment remains top of the list of public concerns, mentioned by just over 60 per cent of the public, with the health service in third place, followed by education and the economy. Despite all the political and media attention given to Northern Ireland, barely 3 per cent regard it as among the most important issues facing Britain.

## MPs stall intake of Labour's new whips

JILL SHERMAN  
POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR'S intention to promote high-flyers from the 1992 intake via the whips' office led to a row within the Labour Party last night.

Mr Blair was expected to announce the appointment of six of the brightest MPs of the 1992 intake to the Opposition whips' office yesterday. Labour leaders made clear on Wednesday that most new MPs would in future need a spell in the whips' office before moving to front-bench jobs. It is the same route to high office used by the Tories.

However, senior Labour whips were appalled at the way that Mr Blair appeared to be handling the appointments. They were said to be incensed by the suggestion that those already in the whips' office, who include several long-serving MPs, would not be destined for the front bench.

"There are several people in the whips' office who would make much better frontbenchers than those who have reportedly got jobs from the 1992 intake," an insider said. There was concern that too many modernisers were to be appointed, with little balance from the Left.

The row has delayed the announcement of the final stage of Mr Blair's reshuffle of his front bench until Monday. He is expected to go ahead with most of the planned appointments but at least two extra MPs were added to the list yesterday afternoon.

Tessa Jowell, Peter Mandelson, Barbara Roche, Geoff Hoon, Stephen Byers are still expected to be appointed as whips on Monday. Eric Clarke, 61, formerly general secretary of the Scottish National Union of Miners, and George Mudie, a former Nupe official, were the two added to the list. Negotiations were continuing last night.

There is also concern, even among those tipped for promotion, that the 1992 "invasion" of the whips office would be seen as a "task force" intent on transforming an ineffective operation.

TODAY IN PARLIAMENT

Commons (9.30): Debate on inward investment.

## Major's personal rating revived

JOHN MAJOR'S personal approval rating has risen to its highest level for 18 months, though the public remains very dissatisfied with the Government's performance and the Tories' rating is still only bouncing along the bottom (Peter Riddell writes).

The latest MORI poll for *The Times* was taken as the latest flurry of allegations about sleaze broke and in the run-up to Neil Hamilton's resignation on Tuesday. The poll suggests that the public has formed a firm view of the Government that will be hard to change. That is borne out by the special questions on party image asked this month. Voters took an unfavourable view of the Tory party after sterling's departure from the European exchange-rate mechanism in 1992 and there has been little change in their assessment since then.

The recent divergence in the public's view of Mr Major personally and the Tories generally follows the widespread praise for the Prime Minister's handling of Northern Ireland and for his speech to the Tory conference two weeks ago.

Mr Major's net approval rating, measuring those satisfied minus those dissatisfied with the way he is doing his job, has shifted sharply in the past two months, from a record minus 59 points to minus 39 points. His rating was last at this level 18 months ago. Mr Major's standing has improved particularly among Tory supporters. In late August, Tory supporters were split almost evenly about his performance, while they are now

more than two to one in his favour.

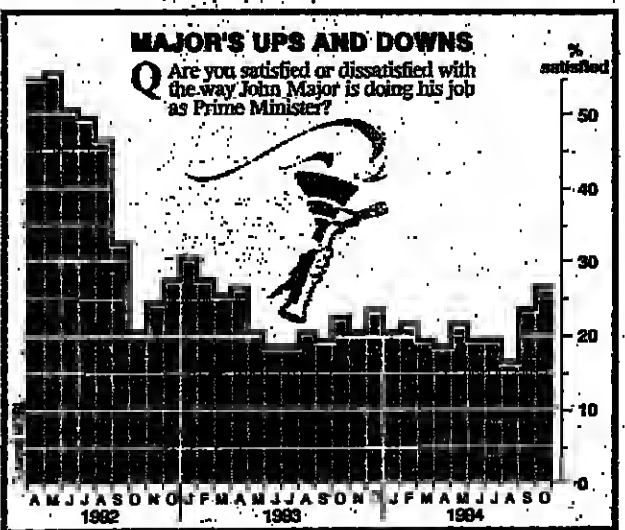
But there has been no such big change in the public's view of the Government. Dissatisfaction with the way that it is running the country has dropped slightly since the summer, but the net balance, those satisfied less those dissatisfied, is still heavily negative at minus 65 points.

That may partly reflect the public's continued uncertainty about the state of the economy. The economic opti-

mism index, measuring those who believe that the general economic condition of the country will improve rather than get worse over the next 12 months, is now minus five points, compared with minus nine points in late September. This is around the average level of recent months.

On the key measures of party image, the Tories are rated worse than Labour, and, on most counts, than the Liberal Democrats. For instance, only 15 per cent of the public believes that the Tories understand the problems facing Britain and only 6 per cent that the party represents the interests of "people like us". Just 8 per cent believe the Tories are concerned about the people in real need in Britain, against 41 per cent for Labour and 20 per cent for the Liberal Democrats.

Half the public think the Tories will promise anything to win votes and two-fifths believe that the party is divided. On both measures, there has been a slight improvement since the questions were last asked in March. But otherwise the ratings have been virtually unchanged for two years.



## Mayhew spells out need to keep troops in Ulster

By Alice Thomson, Political Reporter

THE Army will keep troops in Ulster for as long as they are needed, Sir Patrick Mayhew said last night.

Launching the first Commons debate since the IRA declared its ceasefire eight weeks ago, the Northern Ireland Secretary said that the Government would take no risks by reducing security measures below what is needed to fight the perceived threat of renewed terrorism.

Sir Patrick gave a warning that the Government's assumption that the IRA's ceasefire was intended to be permanent would cease if the evidence started to point away from "a continuing commitment to exclusively democratic methods". He told MPs that people in Northern Ireland had become less disorientated and a lot less suspicious, but fear on all sides remained.

He said that he had to see to it that people in Northern Ireland got the best protection against terrorist crime that could practically be provided. In some areas it had been possible to reduce markedly the numbers of soldiers accompanying police patrols. Other changes included removal of flak jackets and helmets in some areas.

Sir Patrick emphasised: "It

is not possible yet, or anything like it, for the Royal Ulster Constabulary to police the province without the assistance of the Army, but steps in that direction are beginning to be taken."

He added: "Nor has anything been reduced or discontinued that cannot very quickly be put back, should the situation be seen to require it once again." In particular, border crossings opened last week could be quickly closed again.

The fundamental point of the Government's response to the IRA ceasefire was that "we must not enter into substantial negotiations with people who may still intend to bring a gun or a bomb to the table with them." Sir Patrick said the IRA had sought to convey the impression that the ceasefire was permanent, but had not yet stated this quite unambiguously.

"That is why we have been very cautious. It is now recognised that we have been wise. If the IRA continues to show it has indeed ended its terrorism, then we shall be ready to convene those exploratory talks before the year is out. They will of course need to embrace the republicans' proposals for depositing and de-

commissioning their armaments."

Sir Patrick announced a £1 million fund to help the victims of violence in Northern Ireland, including those with physical disabilities, psychiatric problems and those needing bereavement counselling and support.

Marjorie Mowlam, the shadow Northern Ireland Secretary, reaffirmed Labour's commitment to a united Ireland by consent. "Consent, as has always been the case, is the crucial word here," she said. Labour would "seek to facilitate and encourage a balanced constitutional settlement" with the Government.

Sir James Kilfedder, Popular Unionist MP for Down North, said: "I hope people will not be disappointed with the slowness of the process but we have to build up confidence."

It was vital for the IRA to give up its explosives, detonators and other ammunition. "While such weapons of destruction remain there is little prospect of meaningful discussion," he said.

He also praised John Major, saying: "He deserves the plaudits of the people of this country as a man of vision and a man of honour."

## Heseltine confident of winning PO battle

By Nicholas Wood  
CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

MICHAEL Heseltine appears to be winning his battle to sell off the Royal Mail. An informal meeting of senior ministers yesterday agreed to continue work on the proposal with the aim of putting it to full Cabinet next week.

Afterwards, sources at Westminster said that the President of the Board of Trade's proposal to privatise 51 per cent of the Royal Mail had survived its third bout of ministerial scrutiny this week. One source said: "It's not dead. It's still alive."

A Commons motion opposing the sale has been signed by ten Tory MPs, enough to defeat the Government. But Mr Heseltine and his supporters believe that when the legislation is put to a vote, they will be able to persuade enough rebels to back down.

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BY NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR

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**Wiles: believes he has resolved problems**



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Clamour over *Natural Born Killers* stirs Hollywood debate on limits of visual brutality

## Censors to investigate death links

BY ALEXANDRA FREAN AND DALYA ALBERGE

THE British Board of Film Classification is to investigate the alleged links between Oliver Stone's new film, *Natural Born Killers*, in which two young people murder more than 50 people, and a series of real life killings.

James Ferman, director of the BBFC, said the inquiry had been prompted by growing public concern about the graphic violence shown in the film, although he found it difficult to give credence to such allegations. Similar claims about the *Child's Play* 3 and *Juice* in Britain last year had proved unfounded, he said.

Yesterday Warners Brothers, the film's distributors, said that the BBFC had delayed its classification, obliging them to postpone its release from November 18 to next year. "This is very disappointing. We have only just decided to put it back because of the classification delay," a Warners spokeswoman said. Mr Ferman insisted, however,

anything about rejecting the film or even about requiring it to be cut. This is a unique and a very important film. We have been talking, however, about the way it communicates and the effects it will have," Mr Ferman said.

*Natural Born Killers* has taken more than £30 million at the box office in the United States, where it received an R rating, permitting children of any age to attend provided they are accompanied by someone aged over 17. The film tells the story of two young lovers who travel across America, shooting and slashing people to death.

Sheila Whitaker, director of the London Film Festival, confirmed last night that she would be screening *Natural Born Killers* on November 12 at the Odeon, West End. Although the film has not yet been passed by the BBFC, the festival is exempt from the usual classification rules and has obtained the necessary clearance from Westminster Council to show it.

"The film is not directly about violence but is, ironically, a critique of the mass media and the ways in which they feed off violence and sensationalise it for their own purposes. It would be a great shame if the public — over the age of 18 — were unable to see it and decide for themselves," she said.

Will Stevenson, director of the British Film Institute, said that it would be "absolutely ridiculous" if a film that is being shown in France and America were banned by the British censors.

"No one who watched *Natural Born Killers* would have any doubt that it was a satire. We live in a violent society. It's not surprising that films reflect that," he said.

The film has reopened the debate on censorship and the effect of screen violence on people's behaviour. The issue has been highlighted by the introduction of tough new curbs on video in the Criminal Justice Bill, which is shortly to receive Royal Assent.

Gerald Kaufman, chairman of the all-party heritage committee, said that although children should be protected from screen violence, he was against further censorship.



Juliette Lewis and Woody Harrison as the mass murderers in *Natural Born Killers* which has been linked to ten real deaths

## Film director defends 'satire' on fascination with serial murders

FROM BEN MACINTYRE IN NEW YORK

ON SCREEN and off, the bodies are piling up round Oliver Stone's new film *Natural Born Killers*, a lurid story of mass murder that has divided critics and audiences more bitterly than any Hollywood production in recent times.

Ten deaths, six of them in America, have been linked to the film's tale of two young maniacs on a killing spree across the United States. A 14-year-old Dallas boy accused of decapitating a girl of 13 reportedly told friends he wanted to be "famous, like the natural born killers". After a Paris couple went on a shooting rampage last month, killing three policemen and a taxi driver, a poster for the film was found in their home.

Before *Natural Born Killers* was released in America on August 19, Stone went before the film ratings board five times to defend his latest work against the N-17 rating, which would have banned anyone younger than 17 from seeing it and severely limited advertising. Stone finally agreed to cut 150 of the bloodiest shots and obtained a less restrictive rating. A scene showing the head of a prison governor, played by Tommy

Lee Jones, on a spike and another filmed through the bullet hole in the palm of a reporter's hand, were deemed too unpleasant for under-17s but a graphic stabbing, a post-coital shooting and the tally of dozens of corpses were not.

When I watched the film, a third of the audience left in evident disgust at

the images of brutal violence; perhaps another third, of which I was one, probably wanted to leave but could not, gripped by a film that is brilliantly creative and also repulsive. The remaining, predominantly younger viewers, appeared enthralled, periodically breaking into laughter and applause, for *NBK* has become an instant cult film to millions.

Stone and his supporters insist that his depiction of the killer-lovers, Mickey and Mallory, played by Woody Harrison and Juliette Lewis, is a satire on the obsession with serial murder. His critics retorted that the explanation was a cover-up for the most egregious example of that obsession to date.

Stone remains adamant that his \$34 million (£20.5 million) film simply uses grisly humour to make a serious point. "Younger audiences laughed through the heavier parts," he pointed out. But were they laughing satirically, as he maintained, or were they simply applauding a pair of happy butchers getting away with murder? The result is a young audience that laughs, and perhaps kills.



Stone: cut 150 bloodiest shots to avoid restrictive rating



Tarantino: distanced himself from the film

that Warners had taken a "marketing decision" not to bring it out soon after Quentin Tarantino's *Pulp Fiction*, which also depicts scenes of violence.

Tarantino wrote the original script for *Natural Born Killers*, but has distanced himself from it. Mr Ferman added that the BBFC would meet in 1995, weeks to discuss classifying *Natural Born Killers* for British audiences. "No body" here has mentioned

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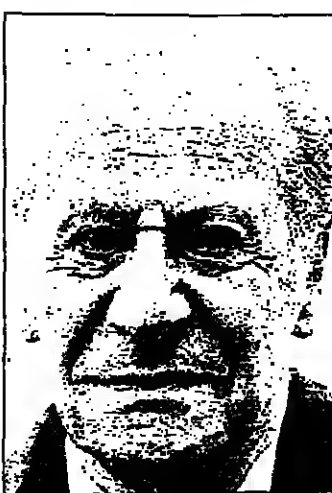
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# British peer was go-between in building Israel-Jordan peace



Mishcon: as lawyer gained reputation for discretion

ISRAEL yesterday paid extraordinary tribute to a British peer who, the government said, laid the basis for the latest Middle East peace agreement.

Lord Mishcon, legal adviser to the Princess of Wales, has been named as the man who for years acted as a secret intermediary between Israel and Jordan and who several times offered the use of his country house as the venue for private meetings between King Hussein and Shimon Peres, the Israeli Foreign Minister.

"He played a pivotal role in the 1980s," Yossi Beilin, Israel's Deputy Foreign Minister, said.

Lord Mishcon, the son of a Brixton rabbi, a former Labour Party spokesman on home affairs in the Lords and one of Britain's

highest paid solicitors, was used by both Israel and Jordan as a go-between from 1984 until 1990.

"He would disappear from his business and come out here at short notice and shuttle between Israel and Amman to deliver messages," Mr Beilin said.

Although he was not involved in working out the treaty signed by Israel and Jordan on Wednesday, he played a key role in clarifying the attitudes of both sides in the lead-up to the formal peace negotiations. "He was trusted by both sides. He was careful not to be involved too much in the negotiations themselves. But there was nobody else who could do what he did," Mr Beilin said.

A former vice-president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews

■ His friendship with King Hussein and Shimon Peres enabled Lord Mishcon, legal adviser to the Princess of Wales, to lay the groundwork for the latest peace deal, Michael Binyon writes

who owns a house in Israel, Lord Mishcon came to know King Hussein after his daughter became firm friends with King Hussein's sister, Princess Basma, at school in England. For many years he has acted as the King's legal adviser in Britain. A close personal friend of Mr Peres, whom he also came to know through his Labour Party connections, he was the conduit used by Mr Peres.

Whenever he crossed the Allenby

Bridge from Israel to Jordan, a car was waiting to whisk him to the royal palace. He never stayed the night, but returned to Israel the same evening.

Lord Mishcon yesterday declined all comment on his role, saying that he preferred to leave it to the King and Mr Peres to give details of any contribution he had undertaken "over a substantial period of time".

The Israelis and Jordanians

warned to him because of his reputation for discretion, a reputation enhanced by his self-effacing role in acting on behalf of the Princess of Wales, Lord Archer and the late Robert Maxwell, among others. After every meeting in his house between the King and Mr Peres, the two would each telephone Margaret Thatcher, then Prime Minister, to brief her on their talks. Lord Mishcon played no diplomatic role for Israel's Likud government.

Mr Beilin said that Lord Mishcon's influence was "based entirely on his personal relations. He believed that the 79-year-old lawyer would still have a role to play, despite the establishment of formal links between the two sides. He was not certain, however,

whether Lord Mishcon would be able to find any useful role in bridging the gap between Israel and Syria.

The Labour peer is well versed in negotiation, having served on committees as diverse as the London Tourist Board and the South Bank Theatre Board. He four times unsuccessfully contested parliamentary elections in the 1950s, and chaired most of the committee meetings of the London County Council in the 1950s and 1960s.

With typical reserve, Lord Mishcon declined to attend the ceremonies to mark the signing of the peace treaty on Wednesday, although his name was mentioned in the Knesset as one of those who played a leading role in making it possible.

## Wary President cancels tour of Jerusalem sites

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN JERUSALEM

FACED with the explosive religious and political complexities of the Jerusalem problem, President Clinton yesterday admitted defeat and cancelled his tour of the holy sites in the historic, Israeli-annexed eastern half of the city.

Although officials attempted to cite tiredness, there was no doubt that the reason was a reluctance to have America too deeply embroiled in the tangled dispute between Arab and Jew over sovereignty of the city claimed by Israel as its "eternal and undivided" capital.

The decision, announced by American diplomats even before the 100-vehicle motorcade had sped up the specially cleared highway from Tel Aviv airport, came as a relief to the overstretched American and Israeli Secret Services.

It was also a sobering reminder, only 24 hours after the triumphant signing of Israel's new peace treaty with Jordan, of the serious obstacles to a full Middle East settlement which still remain. The Palestinians insist that east Jerusalem is theirs and must be the capital of their future state.

The trouble over the proposed Clinton tour — of the Church of the Holy Sepulchre, reputed site of Christ's tomb, the Temple Mount, containing the third holiest Islamic shrine and the Wailing Wall, the holiest place on Earth for Jews — came when Ehud Olmert, Jerusalem's new right-wing Mayor, announced he would be accompanying the American leader.

"One thing must be clear. We are sovereign in all of Jerusalem. There is no part of Jerusalem that we, and I as Mayor, will agree is outside our authority," argued Mr Olmert from the opposition Likud party.

The Israeli demand provoked predictable Palestinian anger, calls for street riots against the American leader, and a declaration that if Mr Olmert was on the trip the ancient gates to the Temple Mount, the site of Al-Aqsa mosque and the golden-domed Dome of the Rock, would be locked.

Faisal Husseini, chief representative of the Palestine Liberation Organisation in the city, described the unresolved Jerusalem issue as a "black hole" which could swallow up and destroy all that had been achieved since the PLO and Israel made peace in September 1993. "We informed Presi-

dent Clinton that he was most welcome in our holy sites and in the Old City, but that we would not accept an Israeli-American visit," Mr Husseini said. Right-wing opposition parties in Israel expressed disappointment with the President's decision, having urged Yitzhak Rabin, the Prime Minister, to press him to go ahead with the tour.

"The Americans realised they were getting into something very uncomfortable and sensibly decided to cut their losses and pull out," one European diplomat said. He noted that during the last American presidential campaign Mr Clinton had upset many Arabs by making a vague pledge — subsequently conveniently forgotten — to move the US Embassy from Tel Aviv to Jerusalem.

Mr Olmert, who is deeply



Tehran: Ali Khamenei, Iran's spiritual leader, above, last night warned Arab leaders against making peace with Israel, saying the region's people would never accept such an "act of treason".

Referring to Israel's peace treaty with Jordan signed on Wednesday, Ayatollah Khamenei said: "This is an oppression, not peace. What can we expect of the Kings of Jordan and Morocco or the President of Egypt? Their people will never accept their leaders' treason or remain silent."

He vowed that Iran would never agree to make peace with the Jewish state. "They complain: why don't we compromise. What a stupid expectation. What justice-loving person would accept such big oppression?" (AFP)

distrusted by the Arabs of east Jerusalem, had to make do with a brief visit to the Wailing Wall paid by Hillary Clinton on which the Mayor acted as host. "I am sorry that he will not visit these places. I am truly sorry," said Mr Olmert.

The three shrines are situated just a short walk apart and the President had been due to make his tour after dark in an attempt to reduce the security risks. Had it gone ahead, he would also have encountered trouble between the PLO and Jordan which have appointed rival militias in their widening dispute for control over the Islamic holy places.

Most nations, including America, have never recognised Israel's annexation of the Arab eastern sector which followed its conquest in the 1967 war. All previous American Presidents have studiously avoided this diplomatic minefield, although George Bush did visit the Old City when Vice-President.

Before the cancellation was announced, the narrow alleys of the Old City were tense in anticipation of violent reaction. Israeli border guards equipped with sniper rifles were also in place on top of the centuries-old walls.

Elsewhere in the city holy to Jews, Muslims and Christians, the 17-hour visit by the Clintons caused much resentment among citizens of all religious persuasions because of the draconian traffic restrictions imposed by the 6,000 police drafted in to protect the President.

Many key roads were closed and the cars even of residents parked on any route used by the Clinton motorcade were towed unceremoniously to a remote sports stadium. An advertisement taken by the municipality did little to allay the anger. "Your understanding and patience are requested during these historic times and the beginning of a new era for generations to come," it said.

So seriously were the threats of an attack by Islamic militants opposed to the peace treaty being taken that a force of 500 police were deployed solely to guard the King David Hotel which was cleared of all its guests and became the headquarters of the American presidential team. "British tourists like us are very frightened that we might be stabbed by an Arab if they think we are American," said Doris Wintgrove, from Barnsley, South Yorkshire, who was on a Christian tour to the city.



President Clinton and President Assad of Syria leaving yesterday's press conference in Damascus before Mr Clinton flew on to Israel for the next leg of his tour to boost peace in the Middle East

## Slum houses vanish as Assad's iron broom clears road to Damascus

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN DAMASCUS

BEFORE Bill Clinton's visit yesterday, Richard Nixon was the only American President to have visited Syria. David Gergen, the media adviser who worked for both Presidents, remembers that 1974 visit well.

"Flying in on Air Force One we looked out on the right wing and there suddenly, out of nowhere, was a Syrian fighter," he recalled. "We looked out the left wing — there was another Syrian fighter. Nobody knew what the hell was going on."

"Air Force One went into a dive. We went into a dive. We all got thrown out of our chairs. We were on the floor. We were rolling around. There was literally a sense that we were going to get shot down. We learnt after the fact — a little late, I might say — that this was a formal escort sent up by President Assad."

Mr Assad spared Mr Clinton the fighter escort yesterday, but laid on an otherwise magnificent welcome, full of pomp and ceremony. After all,

it is not every day that one of the world's dwindling band of genuine dictators enjoys the boost to his stature of an American presidential visit.

Mr Clinton stepped out of Air Force One to a 21-gun salute and the strains of the Star Spangled Banner played by a Syrian military band. He was greeted by a small army of Syrian dignitaries led by Mr Assad. Together the two men reviewed an honour guard whose duties may not always have been so harmless ceremonial. In 1982 Mr Assad ordered the slaughter of 25,000 of his people during a revolt in the city of Hama.

Just outside the airport, an unsightly row of homes had been demolished in preparation for the President's arrival. Damascus international airport was closed for the duration of Mr Clinton's visit, as was the 15 miles of eight-lane motorway along which he was taken to the capital as Syrian troops stood guard. Trees and shrubs had been freshly planted almost the entire length of

this road and the pavements freshly painted in black-and-white stripes.

At first sight modern Damascus bears little resemblance to its biblical forbear. It is a depressing city of grim apartment blocks. However, Mr Assad swept Mr Clinton past these and up to the People's Palace built in 1990 on an arid mountain overlooking



Gergen: recalls Syrian "buzzing" of Nixon

the city. The ordinary Syrian people, of course, are allowed nowhere near this opulent edifice constructed in their name, and the 200-strong White House press corps fared only a little better. One by one they were required to submit to an elaborate security check before entering. Mr Assad evidently feeling the need to protect himself from terrorists he does not control himself.

Mr Assad's efficiency nonetheless won him a number of admirers in a press corps shattered by three days of trailing this seemingly inexhaustible but unpunctual President as he hopscoches round the Middle East. On Wednesday night the group of reporters finally reached their hotel in Amman, the Jordanian capital, shortly before midnight and departed for Syria four hours later. The White House having made erroneous reservations, each journalist was charged for two nights, meaning each hour's sleep cost roughly \$100 (£61).

## Kuwait's Islamic militants gaining ground

BY CHRISTOPHER WALKER

WHEN President Clinton arrives in Kuwait today to a guaranteed hero's welcome, he will find a state that has recovered its pride after the recent show of military resilience against Iraq. But the oil-rich emirate is still far removed from the democratic hopes expressed by the West before the Gulf War.

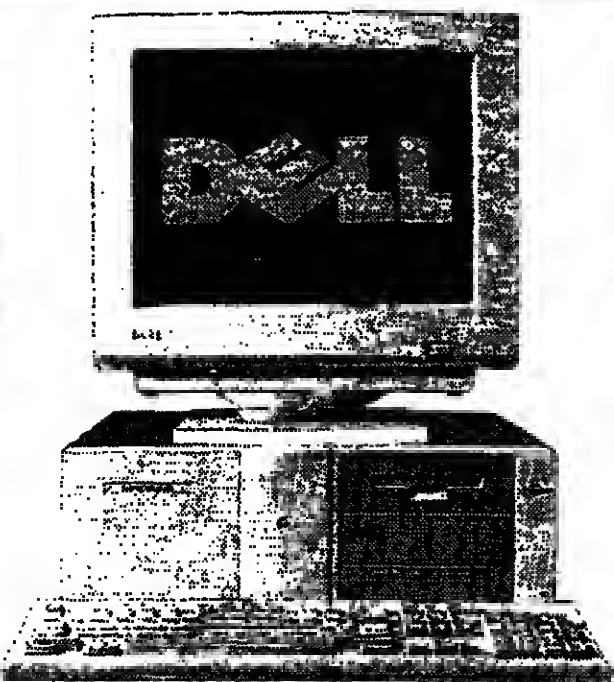
More disturbing to the American leader than the lack of Jeffersonian ideals in a government may be the fact that Islamic fundamentalists have made inroads. Last week the Islamic Cooperation Organisation won a convincing victory in the Kuwaiti "primary" elections, a union of Islamic groups pointed to the night before if the vote was extended beyond the 120,000 Kuwaitis registered to vote in the next parliamentary election in 1995 — about 20 per cent more than in 1992.

The Islamists, who then won 60 per cent of seats in the parliament, have been working to enforce strict Islamic norms. They have succeeded in banning from supermarkets even the innocuous non-alcoholic concoction known as "near beer", and imposed a 500 Kuwaiti dinar (£1,200) fine on retailers selling lingerie with pictures of models.

"The Islamists have a strong base in providing handouts for the poor. They are now striving to ban women adorning advertisements for cosmetics," said Nirmala Janssen, chief reporter of the Arab Times, a daily newspaper in the front line of the campaign by liberals to curtail the spread of fundamentalism in the country of 1.9 million, many of them expatriates.

Despite campaigning by American diplomats, Kuwaiti women, the heroines of the 1990-91 resistance campaign against the Iraqis, have yet to be given the right either to vote or stand as candidates for the 50 elected parliamentary seats. The stoicism with which they stood up to the latest crisis has increased their determination to fight for their rights, but diplomats see little hope of them being granted.

During his brief stopover, Mr Clinton may have occasion to recall the words of his predecessor, George Bush, who declared in July 1991: "The war was not fought about democracy in Kuwait. The war was fought about aggression against Kuwait."



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Families advised to prepare for the worst as hope of three hostages' survival fades

## Western captives feared killed by Cambodia rebels

By JAMES PRINGLE AND MICHAEL BINYON, DIPLOMATIC EDITOR

FEARS were growing last night that three Westerners taken hostage by the Khmer Rouge in late July have been killed by their captors.

Cambodian military commanders in southern Kampot province said yesterday that the three hostages were dead, and had been buried in shallow graves on Vine Mountain, the Khmer Rouge base overrun by government troops on Tuesday. No graves, however, have yet been located in the area littered with mines.

Other reports indicate that the three might have been killed by a mortar round while being moved by the Khmer Rouge out of the area to escape the government offensive.

Some reports hold out the hope that the three might have been smuggled out to a Khmer Rouge safe zone, but there is less and less chance that this is the case.

Yesterday Khieu Kanharith, the Information Minister, said there had been unconfirmed reports of their deaths from local people living near the Vine Mountain base of General Noun Paet, the Khmer Rouge commander responsible for the kidnap, who is thought to have close ties with

the Khmer Rouge leadership now based in Anlong Veng, northern Cambodia.

"These local people said General Paet's men took the hostages into the forest and shortly afterwards there were some shots. Moments later the men left the jungle without the three, so it is assumed they were killed," he said.

The last time there was evidence that they were still

**Phnom Penh:** Nine Thais went on trial in a Cambodian military court here yesterday alongside two of the alleged ringleaders on charges of involvement in an abortive coup against the government in July. Five defendants denied they had plotted a coup, although one Thai, Som-sak Soratham, said he had been told of the plot and of the role he was to play on the day of the abortive coup. The court gave the names of 15 other people suspected of involvement but not present in Cambodia, including Prince Norodom Chakrapong, son of King Sihanouk. (AFP)

alive was in August. "The indications, for the past two weeks, have been generally negative as regards their survival," said a senior envoy who is privy to intelligence reports on the fate of hostages. "We haven't totally given up hope but we feel pessimistic, and their families have been told to prepare themselves for the worst," the envoy said.

Jack Slater, the father of the British hostage, Mark Slater, 28, of Corby, Northampton, yesterday refused to discuss the fate of his son. "We are too upset to talk and we won't be making any comment, either now or in the future," he said.

Mr Slater had been travelling with two companions, Australian David Wilson, 29, and Frenchman Jean-Michel Braquet, 27, to the sea resort of Sihanoukville by train when they were captured.

Both the Australian and French governments evidently fear the worst. Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister, has extended his condolences to Mr Wilson's family.

Britain said yesterday that it was doing its utmost, through the Cambodian authorities, to establish the facts. The Government would not confirm



A Khmer Rouge rebel with, left to right, David Wilson, Jean-Michel Braquet and Mark Slater in a photo released last month

reports of their death, though the Foreign Office said the outlook was now fairly bleak. "With every passing day and no proof of life our anxiety increases," a spokesman said. A sister of Mark Slater said: "As far as I can tell you there

has not been any kind of official contact with the Foreign Office and things still seem to be up in the air."

In August, John Major had urged Prince Ranariddh, one of Cambodia's two joint Prime Ministers, to do what he could

to rescue the men. Boutros Boutros Ghali, the United Nations Secretary-General, had also appealed to the Khmer Rouge captors. Earlier this month Lord Carrington, visiting Cambodia in his capacity as president of the

Voluntary Service Overseas, held talks on the strategy adopted by the Cambodians. Two members of the Metropolitan Police, with wide experience of hostage cases, have been advising the Phnom Penh government. They are

likely to have said that an all-out assault on the camp would endanger the lives of the hostages. Although Britain recognises the difficulties of the Cambodian authorities, there was annoyance that this advice was disregarded.

## Hong Kong airport deal 'days away'

By MICHAEL BINYON

AN AGREEMENT with China on building the £12.2 billion Hong Kong airport is likely to be concluded within the next few days, Chris Patten, the Governor, said after talks at the Foreign Office yesterday.

Mr Patten's remarks echoed his earlier suggestion that the colony had virtually settled its dispute on the funding of the airport, the world's biggest civil engineering project.

He said that a deal on financing should lead to early agreement on related support packages. "That, I think, would be the best possible signal that China and Britain can co-operate to ensure the future economic prosperity of the territory," he added.

Dismissing charges that Britain was frittering away Hong Kong's assets, Mr Patten said reserves for the territory's government after 1997 would be about \$HK120 billion (£9.7 billion).

## Renamo urged to end poll boycott

By MICHAEL HAMILYN

THE path to democracy in Mozambique was once more obstructed yesterday when Renamo, the rebel movement, decided hours before the polls opened to boycott the general election, raising fears that it intended to resume its 16-year-long civil war.

Afonso Dhlakama, the Renamo leader and presidential candidate, said: "We have made this decision because we have proof that there will be massive fraud in this election. It is not an election, it is a picnic... we want new elections."

Mr Dhlakama repeated his promise not to return to war and said: "I am tired of telling people that I am not going back to war. I will be in peaceful civilian opposition."

Brazao Mazula, president of the country's independent electoral commission, said that the election boycott was illegal, as at least 72 hours notice was needed for such a

move. Polls generally opened on time, although there was some confusion as Renamo observers were at many stations. They were withdrawn later and United Nations officials reported yesterday that voting was proceeding smoothly and peacefully throughout the country.

Richard Edis, the British Ambassador, who was among a number of diplomats due to meet Mr Dhlakama last night, said: "We shall try to talk him out of this. He will have put himself in the wilderness and will effectively invalidate the elections. It is a pity he did not raise these objections a week ago when something could have been done."

United Nations officials were hoping last night that Mr Dhlakama's fears could be calmed and that the poll could continue. The electoral commission has the power to extend voting into a third day tomorrow.

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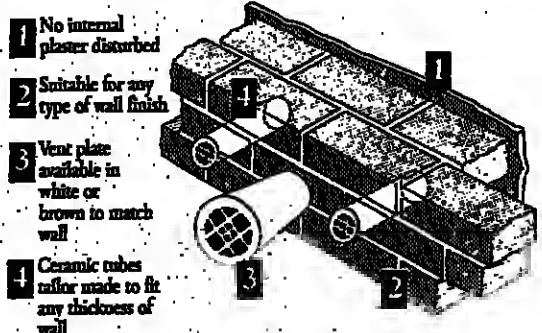
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## Britain changes tack to back European power bloc in Nato

FROM GEORGE BROCK IN BRUSSELS

BRITAIN yesterday speeded up its shift towards a "Europeanised" defence policy and in doing so gave a glimpse of the Government's plans for the next phase of the battle over the future shape of the European Union.

In a speech yesterday Roland Smith, Britain's deputy Ambassador to Nato, gave the first indication that Britain will now support a strengthened European bloc inside Nato. Britain's change of tack increases the risks of US-European clashes over taking in new Nato members from the East. America is in more of a hurry to expand the alliance eastwards than its Western European allies. British officials are angry that the Clinton Administration has begun to force the pace on this issue.

"I thought that we had a perfectly good and steady policy on expanding Nato," a senior British official in Brussels said last night. "Now we seem to have a new one." At a

conference in The Hague yesterday, Mr Smith said: "If it is accepted that a European defence identity is both desirable and compatible with a healthy alliance, it follows that the European voice should from time to time be articulated more clearly within the alliance's board of management."

Mr Smith's speech gave the fullest version so far of Britain's new support for building up European armed forces and Europe's clout in Nato. Whitehall officials have been signalling the coming shift for the past few weeks after Malcolm Rifkind, the Defence Secretary, this summer masterminded his reluctance to annex backbench Tory Euro-sceptics and wrote a secret paper recommending a more explicit European defence policy.

Douglas Hurd, the Foreign Secretary, struck the same note this week when he said that "an effective European defence and effective institutions to underpin it" require

Britain and France to "build on the substantial co-operation we already have".

In the short term, developing a "European army" needs Nato and the revived transatlantic Western European Union to agree on how alliance forces and equipment can be reorganised into "combined joint task forces" for peacekeeping missions which do not involve Americans or Canadians.

British policy for 1996 is developing along three lines. The government will continue to resist most proposals to increase the EU's scope and powers, except in matters concerning defence. Economic and monetary union, whether it happens in 1997 or 1998, will take place without Britain. Lastly, Britain will claim a place in the fast lane on defence policy in partnership with France.

Douglas Hurd, page 20  
Leading article, page 21



Viktor Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, standing up to the opposition in the Duma yesterday as he outlined a tough budget for next year

## Russian opposition fails to overturn reforms

FROM THOMAS DE WAAL IN MOSCOW

A RUSSIAN opposition attempt to bring down the government of Viktor Chernomyrdin failed yesterday when a "no confidence" motion in the State Duma, the lower house of parliament, was defeated by more than 30 votes.

President Yeltsin tried to ensure the collapse of the motion when he sacked

Viktor Khlystun, the Agriculture Minister, and appointed Aleksandr Nazarchuk, of the Agrarian Party, in an attempt to woo its votes.

The result was a personal triumph for Mr Chernomyrdin, the Prime Minister, whose job had been rumoured to be on the line only a week ago. Looking confident in the face of backslapping, he outlined a tough draft budget for next year. The budget

covisages a deficit of only about 8 per cent of GDP and forecasts a drop in the monthly inflation level to 1 per cent by the end of next year.

He said the victory showed that "we have crossed a critical frontier in the course of reforms". That view was endorsed by Anatoli Chubais, the Privatisation Minister, who also interpreted the vote as a moral victory for market reform. The opposition had

claimed that yesterday would be a letter day. Instead it turned out to be more of a display of impotent rage.

□ Hijack foiled: Moscow police foiled an attempt to hijack an airliner at Vnukovo airport, hours after a man in the Daghestan republic blew himself up when commandos stormed the airliner he had seized. (Reuters)

Diary, page 20

## Serbs flee plateau in Muslim victory

FROM JOEL BRAND IN SARAJEVO AND TIM JUDAH IN BELGRADE

THE Bosnian army, in probably its most successful battle, routed Serb forces near Bihac, capturing 60 square miles and a cache of weapons, United Nations officers said yesterday.

The attack by Muslim-led government forces on the Grabice plateau overlooking government-held Bihac in northwestern Bosnia sent hundreds of Serb soldiers and at least 3,500 residents fleeing. Rebel forces have used the high ground to lob shells into the town since June 1992.

"What appears to have happened is that they caught the (Bosnian Serb army) unaware," Lieutenant-Colonel Tim Spicer, a UN spokesman, said. "They withdrew in disarray, abandoning equipment such as tanks and mortars."

UN personnel in the area confirmed that at least two tanks had been seized. There was no information on the number of casualties.

The 24 plan, the latest peace proposal for Croatia has collapsed even before being unveiled. Krajina Serb leaders say they have no interest in it and their Croatian counterparts say they will never countenance a Serb "state within a state". The news came as Krajina Serbs began talks in Zagreb on economic questions after a seven-month break in dialogue.

## French plan defence link-up with RAF

FROM CHARLES BROWDER IN PARIS

AIRCRAFT of the RAF and the French Air Force could soon be flying together under a scheme which senior French officers view as the most significant step in military co-operation between the two countries since the Suez invasion of 1956.

The plan for a "Combined Air Force Group", due to be launched at the Franco-British summit in Chantres, next month, is the main item in a batch of cross-Channel military initiatives. These reflect both a new British interest in promoting European defence outside Nato and a French desire for closer links with the Atlantic military organisation from which it withdrew 28 years ago.

The air force group will consist of a joint headquarters based in Britain or France in which a dozen officers will co-ordinate the use of the fighters, transports and all other aircraft for use outside Nato operations once their governments issue the order. Sketching the plan, yesterday, a French officer said the two countries could deploy aircraft together for transport, the evacuation of civilians or in humanitarian operations. No force would be permanently assigned to the group.

The main thing, said the officer, was that Britain and France had "shown a common political will" to get the scheme off the ground. "We envisage conducting joint operations, and that has not happened since Suez."

The impetus for the air force group has been fed by successful collaboration between the two countries' military in former Yugoslavia and the Gulf.

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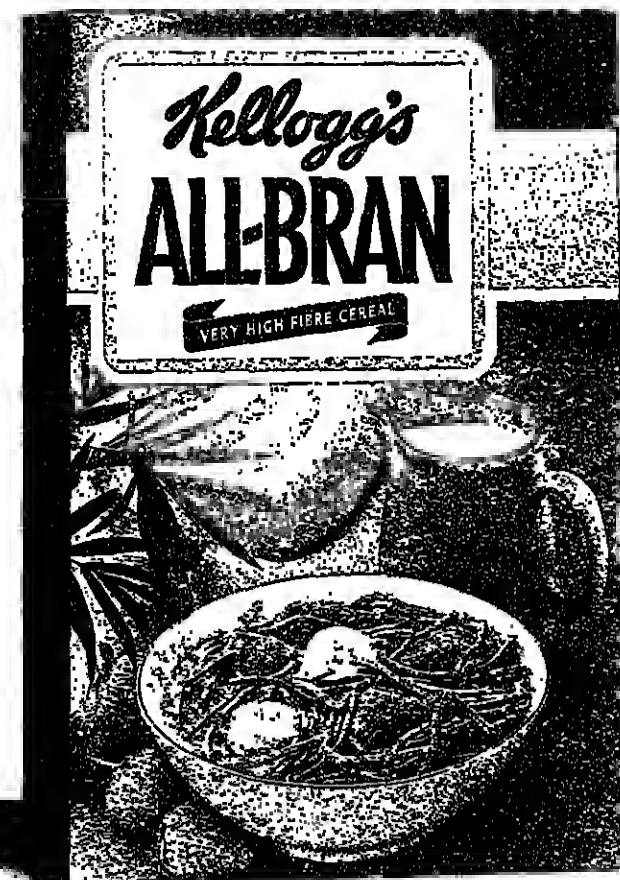
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Television's most feared inquisitor  
on the delights of angling — and the need  
never to let politicians off the hook

# The tale of Jeremy, fisher

It is exactly a year since Jeremy Paxman was blackballed by the Garick Club. Probably a good thing: it keeps him away from cliques of Tory politicians and hangers-on, at a time when we particularly need the scornful raising of his quizzical eyebrow.

We met this week far from sleaze-torn Westminster and chattering Garick. He bicycled down from the village of Turville, near Henley-on-Thames, and arrived at the door of the Stonor Arms with glowing cheeks. In the country, Paxman is transformed into Jeremy Fisher, and this week lands a fat 2lb 2oz volume called *Fish, Fishing and the Meaning of Life*.

He is happiest, he tells us, on "those dappled sunlight days" in "peace and solitude and utter concentration on what the rest of the world thinks unimportant". He writes of "the thumping of the heart when a fish takes". Silent, dull-witted, undemonstrative, cold-blooded fish may be, but he finds them utterly enthralling.

"It may have something to do with the fact that they cannot survive in our element, nor we in theirs. It certainly has something to do with their squamous beauty." [It means scaly.]

So let us address the spiritual side of fishing. Does it lift "the sinking heart"?

The famous eyebrow ascended. He squirmed a bit. "It is a great balm to the soul but that isn't the reason one does it. The lure is the watery environment. You are alone and unobtrusive, in beautiful surroundings in Scotland or a stream in Hampshire, and you see things you would never otherwise see. Kingfishers, wagtails, otters, a mink. It's not a conscious decision like going into a retreat or meditating. I don't want to make it sound like a spiritual exercise..."

Come off it (as he would say), what's this about "the meaning of life" then? Hasn't he just told me that some aspects of modern life — how man treats his physical environment and his fellow man — are "unbearably bleak and depressing"?

"Yes of course I think all of

## THE VALERIE GROVE INTERVIEW



those things. But to invite people to share the experience is one thing. To make overblown prescriptive claims for it makes you sound unbearably pompous. It is just utterly engrossing. And catching a fish represents success in inserting yourself into the natural environment and getting away with it."

One is tempted to see Paxman at 44 joining those American writers of titles such as *Flyfishing Through the Midlife Crisis*, who see fishing as "about love and families and innocence", when the chief reason it is so popular is that it lets men escape from domestic responsibility. "Oh yes," Paxman says, "it's incredibly politically incorrect."

Only fly-fishing connection is that my house was used for the filming of the J.R. Hardy commercial, but Paxman's anthology — ending with Rupert Brooke's "Heaven" — makes the whole business so alluring I rather wished we had taken a little boat and a Ratty-like hamper up the Thames. But Henley is not fishing country. And now that he can afford to fish, he has little time. *Newsnight* consumes three long, exhausting days each week and for *University Challenge* they record 15 sessions over a single weekend in Manchester.

Once, in Bosnia last year, after perilous days journeying into besieged Tuzla, he found himself in a bar where journalists were exchanging visiting cards "and the only one I had said: Fishing Corres-

pondent, *Esquire*. "Oh, are you here to write about the fishing?" asked an American cameraman.

His own village of Turville recently erupted into a small war zone. He and John Mortimer have been campaigning fruitlessly to help the vicar, a jolly ex-champagne salesman, buy the old schoolhouse as a study centre where inner-city children might enjoy rural holidays — a scheme which dismays other locals (including Lord Quinton and Alistair Horne) who live there precisely to avoid such children.

In Paxman's childhood he was taught to fish on the River Ure by his grandfather and a keeper named Mr Sturdy. From them he learnt the necessary guile and the pleasures of a winter's evening at the kitchen table with a boxful of bits of fur and feather. An eccentric aunt allowed him and his three younger siblings to chug up the Thames in her cabin cruiser and camp overnight in *Swallows and Amazons*-style freedom.

At Cambridge he did not fish; he edited *Varsity* and regarded the Union as the preserve of those prepared to sell their grandmothers for political advancement, like Arianna Stassinopoulos. "A student ought to stick pins in politicians, not dignify their game by emulating them."

"Contemporaries of mine are now in the Cabinet — people who take an attitude at the age of 19 and never mature: they trail around unwinable seats and never do anything else with their life. Who else stands by what they thought at 19?"

He got a 2:1 in English ("journalism is not an occupation for First Class minds — it's too imprecise and compromised") and is impressively well up on contemporary novels. He has just reviewed Geoffrey Howe's memoirs: "Remember what Ambrose Bierce once said, 'The covers of this book are too far apart'?"

The first MP he ever met was Sir Gerald Nabarro, who came to address the sixth form at Malvern: "Frightful man who drove around in a fleet of cars with registration numbers NAB1 to NAB10. You can understand why one was in-



Jeremy Paxman: "My contemporaries are now in the Cabinet — people who took an attitude at the age of 19 and never matured"

stinctively distrustful of politicians ever after." Oh, of course lots of them are likeable and quite nice, he said. But he finds them a sad spectacle "when you know perfectly well that they know a particular policy is absolute bollocks, but they have to sit there and justify it because that is the price for which their soul has been bought."

The other night on Radio 4, Paxman gathered seven old codgers from the 1964 Wilson Cabinet: Healey, Castle, Jay, Shore, Longford, Hattersley, Arthur Bottomley, who bickered merrily away. "You crucified me over incomes policy," said Barbara. "Yes well, you do invite the nails, Barbara," said remorseless Healey. "They are so much more substantial than most of the present crop," Paxman says. "You never got the sense with that generation, that it was the only thing in their lives. As you do with the present lot."

Isn't it hard to avoid hobnobbing with them? "No. A lot of political journalists have politicians as their friends. I'm very distrustful of that little closed Westminster world."

So the Garick did him a favour then?

He remains a bit baffled by the Garick. It had never been his ambition to join — no one would accuse him of being dubitable — but after a long lunch there many years ago his friend Edward Faulks (barrister brother of the novelist Sebastian) made a post-prandial offer to put him up. "Years passed, and I hear that I have been blackballed. I've deliberately not said anything about it: if they feel so strongly that they can't face having me in the same room, it's their affair. I wear the Garick blackball with some pride."

Anyway he got a rave press from outraged supporters, including Lord Rees-Mogg, and a gratifying postbag from

people inviting him to join their fishing clubs, etc.

The waiter hovered, cautiously with a hand-written note. It said: "Would you like dessert?" He was a student of journalism from Tasmania. Paxman took the opportunity to advise him: of Nicholas Tomalin's requirements for journalism: "A plausible manner, a little literary ability and rat-like cunning." He added his own essential requirement: curiosity. "And I can't see any point, unless you're going to make trouble. Otherwise you might as well just make money or do something useful."

I was curious enough to ask about the house where he lives with the television producer, Elizabeth Clough and their daughter Jessica, now three. "It's of no interest. I do think you have to draw an absolutely clear line about what you

are prepared to disclose in public. I'm happy to be pilloried for anything I may say on television, or write in a book but the rest of it is nobody else's business."

Anthony Howard, reviewing Paxman's book on the Establishment, said one did not quite know whose side he was on. "Well, no one's ever voted for me, so my political views are neither here nor there, and I think they ought to be a mystery. Too much political journalism masquerades as reporting but is in fact rather blinkered advocacy." He was pleased to be denounced from the platform at the Tory conference as "not fit to sweep the gutter in which I belonged."

"I don't find voting very easy, do you? I do think we all ought to make a judgment, and voting should be compulsory. But the big divide in life is between those who can buy party philosophy, and the rest

of us who like some things about these people, and some things about those."

He longs to combine his two interests in a television series on fishing and its role in world history, since he discovered that Cyril Ramaphosa of the ANC and Rodi Meyer of the National Party were both keen trout fishermen, who hampered out South Africa's new constitution on fishing trips together. He had suggested that fishing-mad Michael Mates might sit in a boat and discuss types of fly with Martin McGuinness, but Mates proved less than keen.

Byron thought fishing "the cruellest, the coldest and the stupidest of pretended sports". Slippery politicians, dangling on the end of Paxman's cunning line, might agree but the rest of us are rather grateful that he learnt through angling the pleasures of the chase, the challenge, and "the successful act of decar".

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AT NEWSAGENTS - EVERY FRIDAY

## The risks of putting Lucan on trial

A mock trial may satisfy television viewers but it could  
bring about a grave injustice, says Giles Coren

Unsolved murder mysteries never die, they just turn into television programmes. Rumours that Jack Nicholson is to star in a film about Jack the Ripper prove that there is no time limit to the resuscitation of dead cases, and 1984's *Trial of Richard III* showed that a 500-year delay is no hindrance to the gathering of evidence. Enoch Powell, remember, was not daunted by a gap that spanned millennia when he acquitted the Romans in the case of the murdered Messiah. By comparison with these historical rehashings, Granada's *The Trial of Lord Lucan*, on November 10, looks like a positively speedy response to the news that a peer of the realm has gone missing and is suspected of murdering the nanny.

Television trial addicts in Britain have always had to settle for second-best. In America, where viewers are treated to the real thing, trials like that of O.J. Simpson dominate the ratings. Here we must make do with misty memories of *Crown Court* and the occasional historical mock-up.

In 1988 LWT's *The Trial of Sir Roger Hollis* followed similar treatments of Richard III and Lee Harvey Oswald. And in 1991 *The Trials of Oz* recreated the famous case from the 1960s, attracting attention for the performance of Leslie Phillips as the judge rather than for its verisimilitude. Phillips had endeared himself to trial-watchers a year earlier, as Lord Lane in *Who Bombed Birmingham?*

Then there was *The Trial of Lady Chatterley* in 1980, with Edward Woodward as counsel for the prosecution. A *Sun* phone-poll voted three to one against its being aired on grounds of obscenity. But the television public, still deprived

of cameras in court, are suckers for the fictional mock-up.

*The Trial of Lord Lucan* is taking itself seriously. Diverging from recorded fact at the moment when Lucan's abandoned car was discovered in Newhaven, the programme tells how the imperilled peer was actually found in the vehicle and arrested. Efforts have been made to present the sort of defence that Lucan might have used, and the jury has been selected "in the proper fashion" from the public. However, given the problems involved in selecting an unprejudiced jury for the



Julian Wadham as Lucan

Simpson case, it is difficult to imagine 12 British people with no opinions on Lucan.

Furthermore, Granada is so desperate to keep the final

verdict a secret that, in a style reminiscent of the *Who Shot J.R.?* mystery, they have filmed three possible outcomes, and only a select group of executives know which is to be aired.

It all seems harmless enough. The Lucan case has, after all, become a national joke. But Patrick Marham, author of *Trial of Havoc*, which blames the murder on a hired hitman, is worried. "It is very dodgy indeed," he claims. "The police consider the case open, and still want to charge Lucan with the murder. This programme could prejudice

the real trial when, and if, it eventually takes place. The programme-makers are assuming that he is dead, but public opinion swings very much the other way. Much of this stuff is *sub judice*."

"The original coroner's verdict, in June 1975, found Lucan guilty in *absentia*," Marham says, "and as a result legislation was passed in 1977 to prevent coroners charging a person with murder. Now it is happening all over again."

But the public loves its courtroom dramas and until we are privileged with true-life action of the Simpson kind, we will continue to put up with these flights of historical fancy, rubber bones to starving dogs though they undoubtedly are.

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## Happiness is a train on time



LIBBY PURVES

IF I see one more weasel-faced motor salesman saying cars represent "personal freedom" I shall scream. I do 250 miles a week in my personal Alcatraz-on-wheels, 200 of which I would not do if there were a reliable alternative (some of it, ironically, is done purely because the fast roads are there in the first place: if they were not, I could let the children go to swimming lessons on their bikes. Tell them that motor transport brings personal freedom, and they'll run over your foot).

This is a momentous time, a historic turning point, and we must not waste it in listening to car-dealers. It will be remembered as the moment when at last even a Conservative government began to understand that road transport has its limitations. Sir John Houghton's Royal Commission may not get its way, but it won't be handbagged with Thatcherite scorn this time. Common sense is dawning. So when voices are heard (as they must be heard) defending reasonable private car use, they should be the voices of reasonable private drivers. Not of self-seeking anoraks desperate at all

costs to sell us more of the same. The trade, frankly, can shut up.

So can the all-or-nothing Greens, who would have us all biding to the supermarket and wobbling back through the rain with organic raffia rickshaws in tow. Their pious ultimatum get us nowhere. Of course there will always be cars: any fool can see that. The TV news the other night had the dumb idea of going to Sheffield — which has the best urban public transport in the country — and asking people in a supermarket car-park whether they would give up their cars. Of course, they wouldn't. Family shopping trips — like self-catering holidays — are exactly what the private car is best at. Carrying a week's dry-goods and this home on the bus with a pushchair is a mug's game, even for Greens.

But suppose they had interviewed people in offices, at parties, at school

gates people cruising for parking-meters, queuing for over-priced NCPs, late for business appointments, stressed and snappish in strange towns. Suppose they had asked them: "Would you have liked to come here on a fast, cheap public conveyance, reading a book, and knowing that you could get home at any hour?" The answer would be, seven times out of ten: "You bet!" To solve the problem of too much private motoring, it is not necessary to remove people's freedom to drive. It is merely necessary to offer them another kind of freedom: a subsidised public system that works. Ken Livingstone proved that years ago when the GLC slashed Tube fares in London and (ask any middle-aged cabbie) measurably eased the

traffic overhead. It was expensive, it was socialist, but by God it felt good.

Such an ethos will be hard to recover. Rural buses are pathetic, city park-and-ride is usually torpedoed by the unreliability of the ride bit and our once superb railways are starved and mismanaged while ministers cosy-up to lobby lobbies and road construction companies. In a country with proper transport priorities, the signalmen's strike would have been treated from the start as a national emergency, as if the water had been cut off. Instead, we were left to sweat miserably on the roads through a long hot summer while Railtrack danced a pointless and ultimately expensive pas de deux with Mr Knapp.

When it is running "normally", the railway is increasingly dear and demoralised. Market forces do not work to its advantage. It is forced into catchpenny, self-destructive schemes like overcharging for inadequate amounts of station parking. Motorists from far-flung homes sometimes actually cruise round looking for space, then give up and drive to London instead (did it myself, once, in Colchester).

Get on the train, and it may still betray you. This week, I travelled from Suffolk to Clitheroe in Lancashire and back, using six trains. Two of them were more than 30 minutes late, each making me miss connections and lose another hour; only one of the others ran to time. The whole exercise cost more than 60 quid, and in a car I could have done it for half and been home two hours earlier. Feeling terrible, admittedly; but you feel

pretty terrible after freezing on Preston station while a loudspeaker talks gibberish about trains "experiencing difficulties" as if they were in therapy, and even more terrible after sprinting across London on a filthy Underground to miss the departure after the one you originally wanted.

WHICH is a shame: because when it works well, public transport is actually a very comforting, uplifting, socially bonding thing to use. It is the classless society, society at work and in harmony: a symbol of national co-operation and cohesion. You can even cure bouts of depression, so I have found, by abandoning your steamy, neurotic little car and plugging yourself in to the supportive fabric of society in the form of a local train. Decent, proud, integrated public transport would do us all good on more levels than the merely pulmonary.

It would certainly be a better way of celebrating the millennium than any daft obelisk. Or, if you like, a better way of honouring Victorian values than fixing the Albert Memorial.

## Turning in their graves

There is no peace for the wicked — conspiracy theorists keep digging them up. Ben Macintyre reports

THE grave's a fine and private place," wrote Andrew Marvell, but he reckoned without the advances in forensic science which have made the bodies of the dead the latest, ghastly focus of historical research.

The good, the bad and the simply notorious no longer have the privilege of taking their secrets to the tomb. Instead they must surrender what remains of their earthly shells for DNA testing, chemical analysis, and thus historical revision.

The most recent candidate for exhumation is John Wilkes Booth, who shot Abraham Lincoln in the presidential box at Ford's Theatre on April 14, 1865. After killing the President, Booth leapt on to the stage, breaking his leg, and shouted: "Sic semper tyrannis," before escaping into the night. According to contemporary accounts, 12 days later, after his leg had been set by a Maryland doctor while he was on the run, Booth was cornered in a burning tobacco barn in Virginia and shot to death by federal troops.

This week 22 descendants of the Booth family and two historians filed suit seeking to exhume the body from a cemetery in Baltimore, claiming that instead of catching Booth the federal troops had summarily executed an innocent man, allowing the assassin to escape.

Some of Booth's relatives maintained he lived on for 38 years, finally dying of old age in Oklahoma in 1903, after which his mummified body was said to have been displayed as the "presidential assassin" in carnivals across the US.

The petitioners argue that with forensic tests they can establish the age, sex and race of the man shot in the tobacco barn, and most importantly examine the skeleton for evidence of the tell-tale broken leg that could confirm Booth's last resting place.

But while science may help to solve historical riddles, some fear that forensics has spawned a new wave of pseudo-history in which the graves of the famous dead are being plundered on the basis of myth, to bolster conspiracy theory or simply to feed a public taste for the macabre.

In the last few years, a morbid parade of American notables has been unearthed to tell their tales from the crypt: President Zachary Taylor ("Carl Weiss," the man believed to have killed the famed Louisiana politician Huey Long, the parents of Lizzie Borden, who received 40 whacks each according to the diary, and even America's favourite cannibal, Alfred [sic] Packer, accused of killing and devouring five fellow prospectors seeking gold in the mountains of Colorado in 1874).

America's current fascination with conspiracy theory has led to the craze for exhumation, for beneath almost every forensic investigation lies the suspicion that the truth has been hidden for nefarious ends. The accounts of contemporaries, the work of scholars, the accepted version of events is no longer sufficient: only science is believable.

In most cases, however, the results are either inconclusive, or simply reaffirm what was already known, while bolstering the impression of conspiracy.

The case of Zachary Taylor,



Abraham Lincoln and, right, John Wilkes Booth, his assassin: now Booth's descendants want the body exhumed



America's twelfth President and one of the least distinguished holders of that title, is a case in point. On July 4, 1850, after performing an official ceremony, President Taylor returned to his Washington home where he ate a bowl of cherries and drank a glass of chilled buttermilk. An hour later he was taken violently ill, and within a few days he was dead.

Had he been poisoned by

cherries laced with arsenic? No one thought so at the time, but with hindsight Taylor's opposition to slavery and the fact that his death rebounded to the advantage of his Vice-President, Millard Fillmore, set the coogs of conspiracy churning.

In 1991 Taylor was exhumed, his tissue samples were bombarded with neutrons, and forensic experts pronounced: the President had not been poisoned. Yet by now the suspicion of wrongdoing was firmly planted and the once-obscure Zachary Taylor had become, to many, a victim of pro-slavery forces.

The scientific investigation into the killing of Huey Long was equally prompted by what columnist Charles Krauthammer, writing in *The Washington Post*, called "the eternal quest for the satisfaction that comes from conspiracy uncovered". Long, or "The Kingfish" as he was popularly known, was a potential Democratic candidate for president in 1935 when he was shot down, apparently by Carl Weiss, a 29-year-old doctor, who was in turn killed by a hail of gunfire from Long's bodyguards.

Weiss's motives have never been clearly established, hatching rumours that he may not have acted alone, or that he was a fall-guy, or that it was, in fact, a bodyguard's bullet that had terminated the career of the US senator and former Louisiana governor.

In October 1991, Weiss was duly exhumed, ostensibly to see whether he had a brain tumour or drugs in his system that could account for his murderous behaviour. The autopsy provided little conclusive proof of anything other than the efficiency of Long's bodyguards: Weiss was shot at least 23 times. Yet it allowed

willing believers to conclude that the seemingly solid case against Weiss was now surrounded by doubt.

Historians and scientists are now preparing to peer into the grave of John Wilkes Booth, hoping to find conspiracy there too. If this proves not to be the assassin's body, then what happened at Garrett's Farm on April 26, 1865? Already there has been speculation that an innocent man was killed to allow Booth to escape, suggesting in turn a government plot to kill Lincoln.

A more likely explanation, of course, would simply be that Booth was saved by a case of mistaken identity, but nothing is ever accidental for those who roam the grassy knolls of American history.

Forensic science can now tell us much about our predecessors: what they ate, how they lived and how they died. But it cannot tell us what they thought or why they acted, and the danger is that by seeking the absolute proofs offered, by science, the probable is often ignored in favour of the merely possible.

Veteran forensic expert Clyde Snow, who has worked on such celebrated cases as the exhumation of Bunch Cassidy and the Sundance Kid, also has doubts about the propriety of grave-digging history.

"I don't know that just because somebody out there has some doubts about what happened, we should jump in and dig people up," he says.

In *The Devil's Dictionary* the American writer, Ambrose Bierce, offered this definition: "Grave: A place in which the dead are laid to await the coming of the medical student," now followed, in succession, by the history student, the conspiracist and an avid public.

## On the trail of a gummed shoe

Our streets are an obstacle course of filthy, discarded chewing-gum

OVER the last two or three years a new plague has hit our city streets: the plague of chewing-gum. Look down at your feet in any street that draws the crowds, and you will see the pavement covered with large, raised black spots, often dribbling at the edges. They consist of discarded lumps of chewing-gum, flattened by endless shoes and covered with hardened dirt and detritus. They adhere to the paving stones more firmly than limpets.

What is being done about the new spotty London and other cities? Alan Cook, the Divisional Director (Cleansing) in the City of Westminster thinks not only that the plague is increasing, but also that it is made more conspicuous by new lighter-coloured stones. Since new paving-stones were laid in Oxford Street and Leicester Square ten months ago, the Council has had to blitz them twice to remove the gum.

The council has been experimenting with different methods. One is called cryogenics — shooting frozen ice particles at the pavements. They have also tried various chemicals. But Mr Cook still thinks that the simplest and most effective technique is shooting hot water at the spots under pressure — although this leaves white spots where the gum has been removed.

Westminster is now specially converting two vehicles that will keep up a steady "gumbuster" service. But, said Mr Cook, "it will be like painting the Forth Bridge".

Camden and the Royal Borough of Kensington and

Chelsea are less worried. The Camden cleansing department said there had been no complaints from the public. The roadsweepers have instructions to scrape off chewing-gum — but as they are only allowed a limited time for each street that is not always possible. (This reminded me of an occasion when I had noticed a roadsweeper wielding his broom rather perfunctorily in Camden High Street. When I asked him about this, he said indignantly: "I've only got time to sweep, you can't expect me to polish.")

In the Royal Borough, they are not taking any particular action yet, though they have been talking to other boroughs, and have also tackled Wrigleys, which is considering whether a less adhesive gum would still be chewable.

Of course, chewing-gum qualifies as litter, and spitting it out is an offence against the by-laws. But, as Mr Cook said to me, "When do you ever see anyone doing it?" Controlling the chewing crowds with eagle-eyed wardens does not seem feasible. At Kensington, they wondered if the undoubted increase was due to people chewing instead of smoking. Certainly, fewer cigarette butts are being swept up.

Whatever the reasons, it is important for other councils to follow Westminster's lead. Otherwise all the improvements we are trying to bring about in our city landscapes are just going to sit on a horribly spotty stage.

DERWENT MAY

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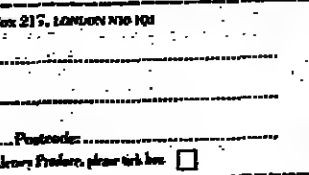
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## Philip Howard



**Hoggishness is next to cleanliness, but beware the porkier than thou**

From the farmyard, a cry was heard. "Comrades! It really is human," said Napoleon. "This time men have surped over the trough in their libels on other animals. They suffer from chronic speciesism and project their own vices and weaknesses onto the rest of us. In their present hysteria over sleaze they are going the whole hogwash and behaving like the unfortunate Gadarene swine, who, according to their Scriptures, were treated so unfairly. In the past week their newspapers have printed dozens of scurrilous cartoons depicting greedy Members of Parliament as pigs, scores of references to the cruel and unnatural practice of the pork-barrel, which is obsolete in its literal though not, oink oink, its metaphorical sense in the stockyards of America, and hundreds of insulting allusions to snouts and troughs."

"Oh be careful!" squealed Squeaker, skipping from side to side and whisking his tail. "Remember, Walls have ears."

"Indeed they do, comrade," replied Napoleon solemnly. "And those are parts of us that they put in their unspeakable... They boast that they find a use for every bit of a pig except its squeal. Even your pretty tail, Squeaker. When it comes to decrying tasteless appetites, men are as hypocritical as Berkshires calling Large Whites black."

"But they are as out-of-date in their references to troughs as they are when they talk about pork-barrels," grunted Snowball. "Any visitor to a farm in the past 40 years knows that troughs went out when factory-farming came in. None of you young porkers has ever slurped swill out of a communal trough as we used to in the good old days. Today, as you know, we each get a carefully weighed individual portion of expensive protein pellets in our own private bowls. We are kept in separate cages at feeding-time to prevent any pig hogging another's share — though from what I read, such greed is more a human than a hogish tendency."

"Human insensitivity to the other animals who share the planet really does bring home the bacon," said Napoleon.

"Four rashers bad, two rashers better," bleated, moaned, grunted and clucked the other animals, in a flurry of alarm.

"I think you mean it takes the biscuit, comrade," said Squeaker.

"What do they mean by that?" asked one of the pigs.

"Taking the biscuit or piece of cake suggests that one of them has come first or carried off the honours by getting a bigger helping of especially delicious food. But to make a joke about having to enter a real biscuit in the farm records upsets the humourless humans because it takes the cracking out of their hypocrisy."

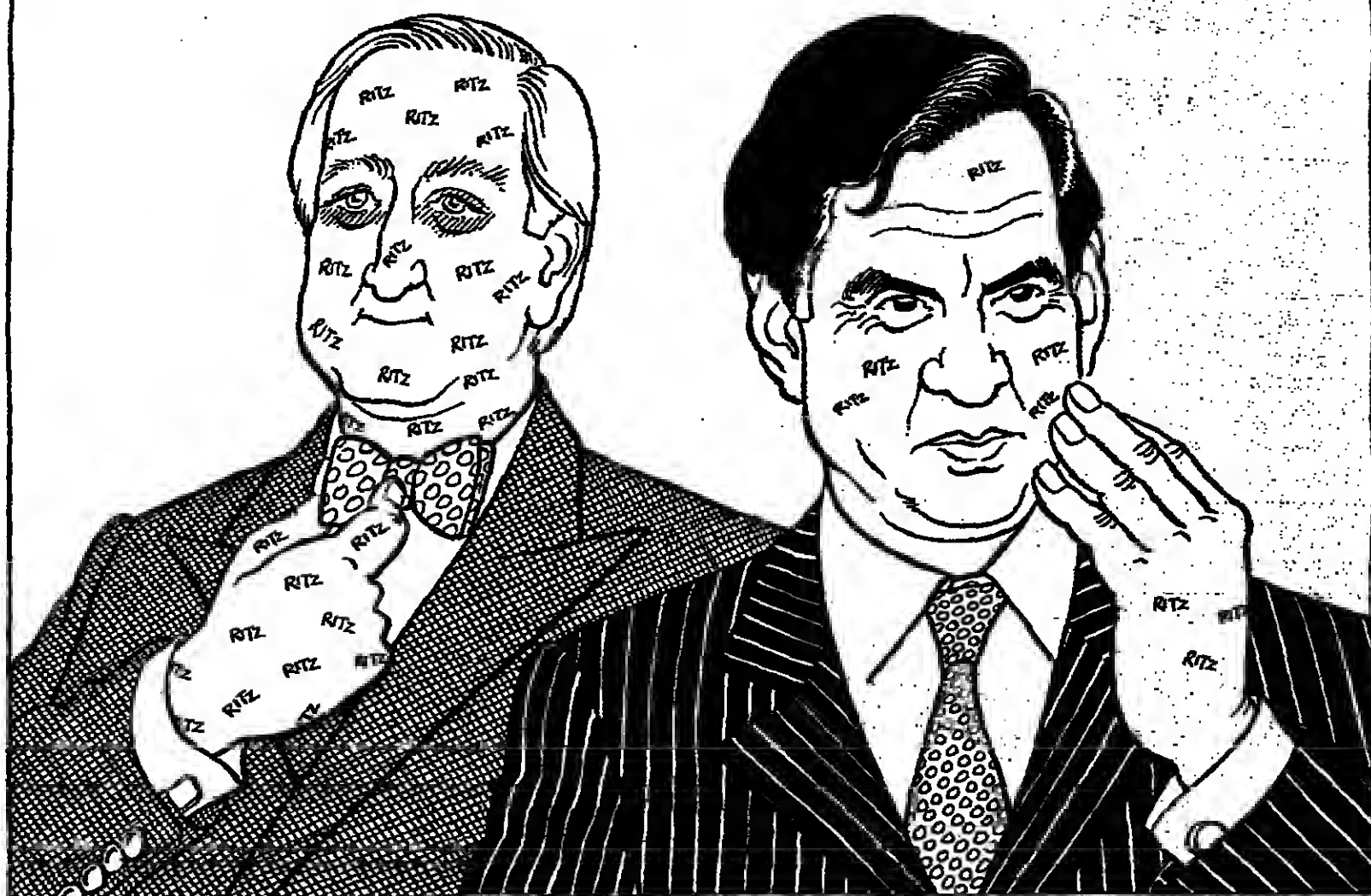
"And why do they use us as examples of uncleanliness?" squeaked the nervous piglet. "They were saying the other day that a £229 dinner and a £39.75 cleaning bill suggested Frecky Hamilton was a very messy eater."

"More projecting of human nature onto pigs," grunted Napoleon. "Anybody who has visited Animal Farm knows we keep our sleeping area clean, and mess only in the place provided. They are even letting some of us out into the fields again, away from our cages, to rootle for mast to our hearts' content as we used to in the days of merry old Pigland, and sleep at night in clean yards."

"Men are irrational in their animal metaphors," said Snowball. "They select for opprobrium not just clever pigs and rats, but the billy jackal, the gentle skunk, the useful worm and the philoprogenitive viper. Wolves do not whistle, and are not, as humans go, philanderers, being straight-laced pack creatures. Even the dog, that shameless and faithful lobbyist of humans, gets a bad name. And the bitch attracts an even worse press, which is sexist as well as animalist."

"Their language is crippled with bias against other animals," grunted Napoleon. "They scratch our backs in a patronising way, but we never get to scratch theirs. Their greasy palm is another carnal kitchen metaphor that we find disgusting. Since their language pushes me that way, I am thinking of standing for Parliament."

"And the creatures looked at pig, and listened to grunt metaphors, and thought that already it was impossible to tell the difference between pig and politician."



MEASLES OUTBREAK

## Lies, sadism, torture

Refugees from Saddam have found only further persecution in Saudi Arabia

I promised you three consecutive dispatches from the front — the front, that is, of monstrous cruelty, of implacable tyrants, of liars all ways at hand to rub out the truth. First was Tibet, second was Indonesia, today it is Saudi Arabia; three very different peoples in three very different continents, but all brothers and sisters in oppression. And I wish I could say, having written the three, that there will never be more cries of the downtrodden, the tortured, the wantonly killed. Some hopes.

At the end of the Gulf War, many thousands of members of the Iraqi armed forces surrendered to the Allies. Voluntary repatriation still left huge numbers refusing to go home, not surprisingly, and these were augmented by Iraqi civilians who had fled from Iraq. At first, the Saudi state behaved well; the refugees were held in camps and were called "welcome guests". But it was not long before the Saudi treatment of the refugees turned the "welcome guests" into men and women who went literally in fear of their lives.

One invariably sound clue to repression is the refusal of the suspects to throw open their gates and let impartial inspectors examine claims and counter-claims. In this case, the telltale clue was the Saudi refusal to let Amnesty International examine the situation in the refugee camps.

I should add, though it is quite clear, that those who do not want their evil deeds exposed are very well trained in the art of hoodwinking, but that Amnesty, and one or two equally meticulous American organisations, are even better at sniffing out the hoodwinkers — which, of course, is the reason that Amnesty was not allowed to examine the real situation of those who had suffered and those who suffer still.

So when the Saudi authorities wrote a letter to *The Times* in which a number of genuinely respectable figures were quoted saying that they had seen the camps, and commended the Saudis for the tender care of the refugees, I did not expect to see an Amnesty inspector in the list of those who had been shown round the Potemkin camps. And do you know, there wasn't one!

Let us start mildly with an introduction to Artawiyah camp, one of the two terribly feared places (the other being Radda). The conditions could best be described as prison-like, with the refugees living in locked cages and being subjected to beatings and other forms of

abuse... The military barracks... unit was made up of a number of tents, one of which was apparently used to interrogate and torture the detainees. And this is how it was done. "The victims have described systematic beatings all over the body... the administration of electric shocks... some have also endured *ta'liq* (hanging by the wrists from the ceiling)... *Jalapa* (beating on the soles of the feet) and deprivation of sleep for prolonged periods. Such methods of torture are known to have been used against political opponents in Saudi Arabia."

I bet they have. And they could try it on Ali Mubshir Abu-Zahara; indeed, they did, thus: "They made me take off my clothes and threatened me with rape... beatings all over the body... being jolted by an electrified rod being unrolled on."

He was one of the lucky ones: Muhammad Khudayr Mubarak Tu'ma was one of the others. "He was taken outside... stripped of his clothes and beaten all over his body... he protested by saying: 'Either freedom or death: As punishment for this, his interrogators sewed his lips together. He was then forced to crawl on his stomach with his hands tied behind his back, and was simultaneously beaten with cables for over two hours. As a result, Muhammad Tu'ma was no longer able to move and was dragged back into a tent by the guards."

One of his co-prisoners took up the story. "By nightfall, Muhammad kept screaming 'I want an ambulance'... I lost consciousness and when I came to Muhammad was no longer making any sound... Soon after, about 30 soldiers arrived... Lieutenant [name unknown] who was in charge of our torture kicked Muhammad to see if he was dead. He then picked up an electric rod and 'electrocuted' Muhammad all over his body seven or eight times. He then lit up a cigarette and extinguished a cigarette on his stomach."

Hundreds of Iraqi refugees have been

forcibly returned to places where they face grave human rights violations. According to the US Committee for Refugees, at least 3,387 Iraqis were repatriated. A thousand or more refugees were forced to sign papers "consenting" to repatriation, and then returned to Iraq. Some of them may have been killed; others were arrested or detained.

In a letter dated September 26, 1993 and smuggled out of Ar'ar Prison to Amnesty International, Karim Muhammad, one of the detainees, stated: "... we were originally 53 individuals. The Saudis used many different methods to

force us to return to Iraq. Some of us were sent back forcibly and we now are 37. We were visited by a representative of the United Nations who informed us that the Saudis have decided either to send us back to Iraq or to keep us in prison for an indefinite period... How can you help us?"

By now, my readers (those, that is, who are still not sick) must feel that they have had enough, and more than enough, of these horrors, and that it is no use my saying that the people whose plight I am writing about are suffering dreadfully, because they — my readers — can do nothing about it. And indeed most of them can't. Nor can I. But at least I can share with you a joke — albeit a horribly dark one — and I offer it now to those who have been waiting for something lighter. It comes from the UN and it runs (all the upper-case letters are from the official text, not my sense of humour) like this:

The UN Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Being Subjected to Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (Declaration against Torture) requires every state to "take effective measures to prevent torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment from being practised within its jurisdiction" (Article 4), including conducting prompt and impartial investigations,

whenever there is reasonable ground to believe that an act of torture has been committed (Article 9) or when a complaint has been made (Article 8), to exclude torture-induced confessions (Article 15), and to provide compensation and rehabilitation of victims of torture (Article 13) and to bring to justice those responsible (Article 10). Any statement established to have been made as a result of torture may not be invoked as evidence against the person concerned (Article 12).

Now I am sorry to burden you with matters that concern a quarrel in a far-away country between people of whom we know nothing, but when the people involved have not only the superior force, but all the force for many miles around, it behooves me to point out that there is a huge, numberless crowd of poor, frightened, tortured, cast-out, perpetually threatened people whose only crime was to get caught up in other people's battles, and that those who have brought about this wickedness are now claiming that 'no such thing' has ever happened.

Is the world now ripe for destruction? When we contemplate the hecatombs of corpses in and around Rwanda, when we are told that Pol Pot is not only alive but in business again, when we read of savage murderers with no purpose in their murders but to impose their belief that 'only one form of Islam' (to say nothing of all the other religions in the world) may exist, when many millions have not enough to eat and many hundreds of thousands have nothing at all to eat — can we then be sure that the world will not soon be drowned again, but this time with no Aids?

Amid all that, you may think that the beating and torturing of Iraqis by Saudi Arabian soldiers is pretty small beer, and so it is, unless, of course, you are an Iraqi being beaten and tortured. And then, people like me have to listen to claims that there are no such people as Saudi beaters and torturers in the camps.

I stand by Amnesty International, which says nothing in guesswork, nothing in revenge, nothing careless, nothing without a pile of evidence. The Saudis have long known that evidence — how could they not have known, considering that it incites the Saudis themselves? I cannot stop a single Saudi blow on the back of a single tortured Iraqi. But what I can do — little enough — is to tell anyone who will listen that the truth is with the tortured and the lies are with torturers.

Bernard Levin

## Open Arms

BORIS YELTSIN is taking his drinking talk to the top diplomatic tables. He has been regaling world leaders with enthusiastic accounts of the happy hour he spent with John Major in the Chequers' local.

The Russian President's lasting impression of Britain, following his visit last month, is of the warm welcome he received at the Bernard Arms in Kimble. The pub is where he and the Prime Minister pitched up after a country walk with their wives.

United Nations Secretary-General Boutros Boutros Ghali and his wife Lea heard the Yeltsin pub story first-hand — and at some length. On Boutros Ghali's trip to Britain this week, Lea explained that at a recent dinner with the Yeltsins in New York, Boris could talk of little other than his pint of Canadian lager in the cosy atmosphere of the bar. According to my scout, he repeated "Chequers" and "pub" over and over again, raising his glass with a fond look of recollection in his eyes.

Pierre Gray, the pub's landlord, is far from surprised at the Russian enthusiasm. He believes Major should entertain at his bar more often. "I'm delighted Yeltsin

is spreading the word. It's a shame Mr and Mrs Boutros Ghali couldn't get up here when they were at Chequers, but the door is always open. There would be a free drink on the house, as long as they didn't roll up with an entourage of twenty or thirty."

● A topical note was again sounded at Tuesday night's performance of the English National Opera's *Magie Flute* at the Coliseum. Prince Tamino was urged to undergo various trials of strength

I HOPE IT ISN'T SUPER UNLEADED



and skill to win the hand of Pamina — or risk 'thunder, lightning and... allegations of sleaze'.

## Sized up

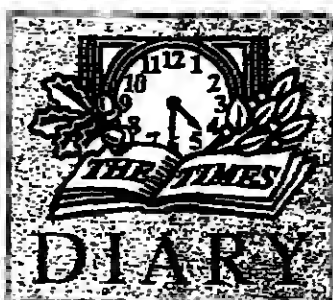
EUROPEAN absurdities have reached new heights in Brussels. Two years of exhaustive research into a standard size for condoms by the EC Committee on Standardisation have amounted in nothing. Euro-sceptics are furious.

Sir Teddy Taylor, chief Euro-basher and MP for Southend, wrote yesterday to Kenneth Clarke to demand an explanation. "I have written saying that the amount of cash tied up in absurd and costly proposals such as these on condoms and flying saucers is ridiculous. I would like to tell the EC to jump off Southend pier."

The EC committee arrived at an average length (six-and-a-half inches) and has recommended an optimum condom size. But it also reached a predictable conclusion. No standard size can be enforced.

## Ask away

THE LATEST antics of the Prince of Wales have at last been recognised in the entertainment industry. He has been crowned the king of trivia. For the first time there are more questions about him in



the quiz game Trivial Pursuits than there are about his mother.

His influence on the 1995 edition does not stop there, either. Camilla Parker Bowles is the subject of questions for the first time. The Prince can at least glory in the limelight on this occasion. There are but 20 questions about the Princess of Wales, compared to 35 about the heir to the throne.

## Sent packing

SOFT-SPOKEN lobbyist Ian Greer, enmeshed in the cash-for-questions affair after allegations by Harrods boss Mohamed Al-Fayed, received a surprise package in the post on Wednesday. It was a Harrods brochure.

This was no attempt by the Knightsbridge store to woo the lobbyist after so upsetting him. It was simply the kind of post that

any Harrods account-holder can expect. Needless to say, Greer studied the brochure back in its envelope and put it back in the post marked "Return to sender".

● Nicholas Snowman was lost on Tuesday in the South Bank Centre where he is chief executive. After a dinner in the Hayward Gallery following the Times forum on German Romanticism, he led guests into a dead end. "I am always getting lost in here," he said. "I have to get my staff to show me out. It's as good a reason as any to redesign the centre."

## Fair mayor

CIVIC dignitaries throughout Britain are rushing to their vanity mirrors after a flying visit from a mayor from Venezuela. She was crowned Miss Universe in 1981, she is soaring in popularity polls back home, and many have tipped her as a future president.

Irene Saiz Conde, mayoress of Chacao in Caracas, has been on a whistlestop tour of Britain to pick up municipal tips on fire services, police, dustmen and such like. She admits her looks have helped her political progress.

"It means I am well-known because I have appeared on television many times," she says. "Some people say politics is a



Vote for Irene

tough game and I am too soft. But I believe in myself." So, too, did her stocky female chaperone: "We say back home that she is a plane. A 747. She is taking off."

● While Tony Blair is determined to enunciate the House of Lords, his wife may feel differently. Yesterday, Cherie Booth and her fellow barristers were seen lunching in the Upper House dining room (revision a speciality), where I am told she is a regular.

P.H.S

## Old foes but new friends

Douglas Hurd

makes common

cause with France

Among the millions of British people wise enough to take their holidays in France, there are many each year who pause to reflect, as they make their way back through Northern France, on some of the milestones of the military history of the two nations. They may stop at the memorial arch to the missing at Thiepval or look at the fragments of Mulberry Harbour still lying off the beach at Arromanches. They may stop at the monument beside the field of Agincourt. They probably reflect on the hundreds of years of military endeavour and tradition which once divided but have more recently united Britain and France in the defence of their interests.

For both of our countries those interests are global. We are European countries with a reach far beyond Europe. We have interests in trade, and investments in all regions of the world. We have our territorial responsibilities, and duties as permanent members of the UN Security Council. We must build on the substantial co-operation we already have, both in policy, as we continue to reshape the institutions which have defended us since the Second World War, and in practice, putting our forces at the service of European defence and the Atlantic alliance.

New partnerships are being forged between the British and French armed forces. We have put action in hand to make sure that our air forces can work more closely. Last month we signed a partnership agreement between the British Field Army and the French Force Action Rapide. Under this partnership, joint training of French and British soldiers, joint exercises and joint planning will be more frequent and more natural. Regiments which may once have faced each other at Blenheim or Waterloo are now thinking and acting together.

But there is much more to it than this: as I am sure the Commander of Force Action Rapide would be the first to tell you. He is General Philippe Morillon, who until January commanded the UN Protection Force in Bosnia. Having had both French and British troops under his command in Bosnia, he knows already how close familiarity and co-operation can help deployments in the field.

I need remind nobody here of the contribution that Britain and France are making together to the work of the Protection Force in Bosnia, but effective co-operation in European security will in future be about more than doing things together militarily. We will be acting together in policy too.

In July this year, Alain Juppé and I agreed to show our shared commitment to peace in Bosnia. We could not by ourselves claim to constitute a "Force Action Rapide", but we agreed that the time was right to urge the leaders in Zagreb, in Belgrade and in Pale to accept the contact groups' peace plan. We flew out together, we thought, spoke and acted together. As representatives of the two largest European troop contributors, we were speaking with one voice.

During those days in Sarajevo, Pale and Belgrade, the two of us were able to speak almost as if we were members of the same government, supporting one another's presentations, briefing one another's press. Our staffs and the people we spoke to were surprised how far this went. This was possible because for months after the two of us had worked together on Bosnia, as had our diplomats and soldiers. We played our part in the welcome change of policy by President Milosevic. It was an experiment that succeeded. It was an experiment I would be glad to repeat.

At last year's Franco-British summit, we decided to continue our dialogue on nuclear defence policy. Already, we have found that our views on the roles and rationale of nuclear defence in the post-Cold-War world are closer than we had assumed. Any definition of a European defence policy would be incomplete without the nuclear dimension, and that would be meaningless without France and Britain.

Much hard work is needed on the relationship between the core institutions of European security, the European Union, the North Atlantic Alliance, and the Western European Union. We have to agree a flexible basis on which these organisations can act in a complementary and harmonious way. In all this there is a danger that we may lose sight of our interests and responsibilities in the wider world. But our actions in the Gulf War, and the ten thousand and more French and British troops in peacekeeping operations around the world should leave no one in any doubt of the readiness of Britain and France to roll up our sleeves and get stuck in.

Together, we have given the UN Secretary-General a full account of the assets and people we can put at his disposal in preventive diplomacy. Since then, both Prime Minister Balladur and I have suggested more ideas to promote peace in Africa by enhancing that continent's own conflict-prevention and peacekeeping capacities.

The history of past centuries tended to divide us. The history of this century brings us together. Not enough people in either country have grasped the essential fact: that in our interests, in our hopes and fears for the outside world, there are no two substantial countries so similar as France and Britain.

This article is based upon the Foreign Secretary's speech this week to the Franco-British Council.





## CHARM OFFENSIVE

The Foreign Secretary sees the future on French fields

Douglas Hurd has employed for France words more normally reserved for the Anglo-American relationship. In their "hopes and fears for the outside world", in their interests and even in their "view of Europe", no two "substantial" countries, he said, were "more similar than France and Britain". Mr Hurd was addressing the Franco-British Council, but even allowing for the inclination to tailor words to an audience, the Foreign Secretary was claiming an expanse of common ground as glittering as the field of the Cloth of Gold. In some respects it was also as illusory.

Even when operating as allies against a common threat, the nations of Burke and Paines, of Colbert and Adam Smith are conditioned by history and culture to a mutual distrust of each other's motives. This has often done real damage, in the 1920s and 1930s, British scepticism about French fears of Germany's military revival contributed to the failure of the League of Nations. Nationalism, strong in both, has divided them. Their different concepts of the State lead to different attitudes to market forces. More pertinently for Britain's need for a "flexible" European Union, France's current leaders have made a point of playing down the influence that Britain, outside the Franco-German "core", can expect.

Mr Hurd admitted that his slow tide of converging interest has some way to move before it fills "the estuary of public perception" — in either country, he could have added. Yet his words should not be read as diplomatic platitudes. The fine phrases were carefully designed to assist the Government's determined pursuit of an ambitious strategic objective: that of ensuring that however the "defence identity" of the European Union evolves, it is securely rooted in Nato.

Bill Clinton's endorsement of a common European defence at Nato last January has had a profound impact on military thinking, in France as well as Britain. Whatever else the EU inter-governmental conference in

1996 may hold in store — and almost everything is still to be determined — that shift in American policy has put defence and security policies firmly to the fore.

The precise relationship to Nato of that defence discussion group, the Western European Union (WEU), suddenly matters. And here there are marked signs of a genuine convergence between London and Paris. Britain can hardly continue to argue that Europeans must be careful not to alienate Washington by banding together at the expense of Nato. On the contrary, American commitment to Nato could now be said to hinge at least partly on a defined European capacity to handle threats to security on the continent.

Britain's key objective is now therefore to woo France away from the Franco-German concept of defence based on such politically motivated entities as the Eurocorps, semi-detached from Nato. The alternative, one which is indissoluble from the Nato command structure even if it bears the WEU acronym, is much more feasible now: the US domination of Nato warps French policy far less than it did. French participation at the recent Nato meeting in Seville shows changing attitudes. More French politicians are now coming to see Nato as ballast against German political weight.

Above all, Mr Hurd claims, involvement in the Gulf and Bosnia has convinced both France and Britain that an effective "military core" to the EU will depend on them: they are the only European powers with serious capability and the will to use it. Mr Hurd fears that the 1996 debate will become "hypnotised by the interlocking of elaborate institutions". In seeking to redirect the focus to Europe's place in the wider world, he may also hope to win France to Britain's goal of enlarging the EU eastward. But every idea emanating from London, however sensible, will be filtered through a fine mesh of Gallic scepticism. The Foreign Secretary should have no illusions about the magnitude of the task of persuasion he has set himself.

## OUT OF THE PIT

The Prime Minister has yet to escape his predicament

The cash-for-questions affair continues to generate more questions than answers. In the Commons yesterday, John Major attempted to present himself as a man of clear conscience, determined to brush aside demands for further investigations and greater openness. Yet by publishing Sir Robin Butler's inquiry into the controversy and setting up the Nolan committee, on standards in public life, the Prime Minister has whetted the public's appetite for the truth. This appetite is not yet satisfied: indeed, it is stimulated daily.

Gordon Brown, the Shadow Chancellor, took advantage of Treasury questions yesterday to ask Jonathan Aitken, the Chief Secretary to the Treasury, about his bill at the Ritz hotel in Paris last year. Though many MPs thought this a mischievous tactic, Mr Aitken seemed happy to respond. It is regrettable, therefore, that he did not go into greater detail in denying the allegation that at least part of his bill was paid for by a Saudi businessman. His reticence has merely prolonged the atmosphere of doubt.

The Cabinet Secretary's report on the allegations made by Mohamed Al-Fayed, the owner of Harrods, now occupies a crucial place in the whole affair. It is particularly regrettable — and symbolic of the current disorder in political life — that the word of the Cabinet Secretary should be regarded as insufficient by the Opposition. No political system can survive without at least a minimal assumption of trust in its officials, ministers and elected representatives.

## COURTS AND THE CITIZEN

Judicial review has grown bigger: it must now get better

If the creation of a system of administrative law is the pre-eminent achievement of the English courts in the postwar era, judicial review of administrative action is the central feature of that system. If Parliament and the courts pay heed to the latest recommendations of the Law Commission, published yesterday, the effectiveness of this "citizen's weapon" will be further enhanced.

Dioey, no longer the presiding deity of our Constitution, would have regarded these views as blasphemy. But the great Victorian, to quote a distinguished modern critic, "misconceived the nature of representative democracy". With the growth of executive power, judicial review has emerged as a necessary counterweight — whose political vim is matched by its jurisprudential elegance.

By their supervision of administrative action and restraint of the abuse of power, judicial review is deployed in areas ranging from housing, health, education and planning, to immigration, race and sex discrimination, prisoners' rights and industrial relations. The ideological threat by which the courts tie these issues together is the need to vindicate the rights of citizens. Judicial review is rooted in the rule of law, a political doctrine which is wider than the principle of legality alone.

The Law Commission has focused on three policy issues: the importance of ensuring that public bodies take only lawful decisions; the need for speed and certainty in administrative decision-making; and the interest of litigants in obtaining effective re-

Much still needs to be done on the Government side to strengthen this assumption. It may be, in practice, that the Cabinet Secretary is no longer the right person to conduct such investigations. The Cabinet Office was invented by Lloyd George as the discreet, cerebral centre of Government, rather than as a public tribunal. The Cabinet Secretary is expected to be a uniquely impartial figure, capable of advising the Prime Minister on matters of the utmost sensitivity in complete confidence. Publishing this advice transforms the position of the Cabinet Secretary from confidant to judge. If the findings of such investigations are to be disclosed in future, it must be asked whether he is the right person to carry them out. The embarrassment caused to Sir Robin by this controversy may strengthen the case for the Nolan committee to assume a limited investigative role in due course.

The Prime Minister also needs to clarify his decision to refer to the Director of Public Prosecutions details of a meeting between himself and an alleged envoy of Mr Al-Fayed on September 29. The relevant papers have now been passed on to a senior police officer. Mr Major should explain why it took him so long to pass these papers to the DPP and what grounds he had for believing that the person he met was indeed representing Mr Al-Fayed, who vigorously denies that this was the case. To all these questions there may be perfectly legitimate answers. But the longer they go unanswered, the less easy it will be for the Government to extract itself from the pit of rumour and doubt.

medies. Apart from seeking to make procedures more "user-friendly", by the abolition of much Latin terminology, the Law Commission has made a number of valuable proposals. Of greatest interest, in this age of pressure groups, is the recommendation that "unincorporated associations" should be permitted to make applications for judicial review in their own name. As the report points out, it would be "a considerable inconvenience" if all pressure groups had to form themselves into limited companies solely for the purpose of judicial review.

The proposal that there should be statutory provision for interim relief against ministers and government departments is welcome, as it would consolidate the decision of the House of Lords in *Re M*. The most audacious recommendation, however, is that the High Court be empowered to make "advisory declarations" by way of judicial review. These would help citizens to know where they stand, which is part of the public interest in good administration; and public authorities faced with the interpretation of complex laws — particularly EC laws — could turn to an authoritative guide.

Where the report can be criticised is in its failure to recommend reform of the rules on discovery. Given the adversarial nature of legal proceedings, and the fact that the relevant evidence tends to be in the hands of the respondent public body, the present rules relating to discovery are too uniform to applicants for judicial review. Reform of judicial review cannot ignore this issue.

## Ethical issues and 'Blackmail' over EC milk quota fines

From the President of the National Board of Catholic Women

Sir, At a meeting of the National Board of Catholic Women, a consultative body to the Catholic Bishops' Conference of England and Wales, on October 22, the board's Episcopal Liaison, Bishop Vincent Malone, stated that there was no moral obligation for parents to refuse rubella vaccine for their children because of its original link with two aborted foetuses, just as there is no moral obligation to refuse a transplantation using "the organs from a murdered man".

The man was not murdered in order to obtain the organs nor were the babies in question aborted in order to produce a vaccine. The majority of women at that meeting agreed with this line of argument.

Many women would feel that a parent's desire to make what is a gesture against abortion was of less importance than the welfare of their children when it is a question of protecting them against a disease which could involve the high risk of death or severe handicap to their future offspring.

To consent to using the vaccine in no way condones abortion. It would be unfortunate if Catholic parents were led to reconsider their consent to their children being vaccinated because of recent publicity (report, October 26).

Yours etc,  
MARY BROGAN, President,  
National Board of Catholic Women,  
34 Park Road, Disley, Cheshire,  
October 26.

From Professor T. E. J. Healy

Sir, Forty years ago, the late Jack Hunt, Professor of Physiology at Guy's Hospital, taught his medical students that, because some experiments on the effects of dehydration had been carried out by inhuman practices on Jews in concentration camps, it would be unethical, however expedient, to use the information obtained.

If we now accept as ethical the use of aborted human tissue to develop vaccines for the benefit of other members of the human race, would we not be returning in spirit to the Gestapo laboratories and following a path that could in due time lead to our condoning the use of human material such as organs taken from other unwanted humans, those perhaps who need expensive care, not least the elderly as their numbers grow?

The ethic which protects the sanctity of all human life is one which we must defend, however compelling the arguments of current expediency. We must not close our minds to the enormity of what is being done in our name.

Yours etc,  
T. E. J. HEALY,  
University of Manchester,  
Department of Anaesthesia,  
Manchester Royal Infirmary,  
Oxford Road, Manchester M13,  
October 26.

## Blood transfusion

From Councillor Mrs E. Orr

Sir, When I went to give blood recently two ladies in front of me disclosed that they were from a large company in Gloucester which the Blood Transfusion Service visits. It had been unable to cope with the numbers there and had had to turn about 50 away.

The receptionist at my session said they too were inundated and had been forced to turn about 40 people away.

When giving blood people often have to queue for hours and lose wages while they are at it. Yet my husband and I have just received separate letters from the National Blood Authority explaining how they are to become much more efficient by closing a third of the transfusion centres in England to save £10 million a year (report, August 24; letters, September 30, October 11, 14, 26).

Yours sincerely,  
ELIZABETH ORR,  
Sunnymeade, Gloucester Road,  
Longhope, Gloucestershire,  
October 26.

## Seabed dredging

From Dr Ian Cromie

Sir, Your article headed "Sea dredging endangers stocks" (early editions, October 12), which claimed that life on the seabed remained damaged two years afterwards, overstated the impact of marine sand and gravel extraction on the seabed.

In terms of the impact on fish stocks, it is important to appreciate that the area of the seabed touched by extraction is minuscule — some 0.03 per cent of the North Sea annually when working at full current capacity. Research by the International Council for the Exploration of the Sea found that, in a worst-case scenario in the North Sea, extraction might reduce the numbers of fish available by 2,000 tonnes, compared to a total fish biomass of 10 million tonnes. This puts any potential impact into perspective.

Yours faithfully,  
IAN CROMIE,  
British Marine Aggregate Producers Association,  
156 Buckingham Palace Road, SW1,  
October 17.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

## 'Blackmail' over EC milk quota fines

From Mrs Christina Speight

Sir, The front pages of all the newspapers, including *The Times*, have concentrated on the petty, though deplorable, corruption affecting individual MPs. Meanwhile a real and serious betrayal of principle was relegated to the inside pages, where it was scarcely explained.

Some time ago our Government decided to challenge in the European Court the decision of the European Commission to overrule a court judgment fining the Italian government £2.3 billion and the Spanish a lesser amount for refusing to obey the EC's own milk quotas. This was the first real attempt to stamp out widespread corruption affecting the European Community, made worse by the Commission's decision to overthrow a valid court judgment.

However, our Chancellor of the Exchequer, Mr Kenneth Clarke, gave way to blackmail threats from the Italians and Spaniards that if the fines were enforced they would block the European budget and the accession of Norway to the Community (report, October 22). Apart from the fact that it would suit Britain's interests to have the budget blocked, since we would then have to hand over less of our taxes to subsidise our competitors, one must ask how a British minister could so shamefully undermine the rule of law, especially when our Government had originally acted to accordance with principle in taking the Commission to court.

Surely it is clear that only a total withdrawal from the Community, as called for by the United Kingdom Independence Party, of which I have recently become a member, holds out any hope of our becoming again masters of our own destiny. Norman Lamont's call for rejection of a federal European superstate (report, October 12) can only be answered by a rejection of the policies of all the other parties.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTINA SPEIGHT,  
20 Ramillies Road, W4.

## Ivory trade ban

From Sir Christopher Lever, Chairman of Tusks

Sir, On January 20, 1992, prior to the last biennial meeting of the Convention on the International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES), you published a letter from me regretting the British Government's procrastination, as before the previous CITES conference, on the question of its support for the continued listing of the African elephant on Appendix I.

This affords the species special protection by banning the international trade in ivory and other elephant products. At the eleventh hour the Gov-

From Mr Graham Wood

Sir, The Government's abandonment of its legal action against the European Commission over "fiddling" of milk quotas confirms that the common agricultural policy is incapable of reform within existing structures. In effect the British taxpayer is being asked once more to cough up and not complain in order to support systematic corruption over which there is no democratic control or political redress.

Our gross contribution to the Brussels exchequer in 1996-97 is set at £10.3 billion, the equivalent of £197 million a week.

When did the British people give any government a mandate for subsidising EU fraud and the criminally wasteful agricultural policy?

Yours faithfully,  
GRAHAM WOOD,  
19 North Road,  
Ripon, North Yorkshire,  
October 24.

From Mr Edward Hay

Sir, The choice for Mr Kenneth Clarke in Brussels lay between protecting British interests and risking the ratification of the European Union's five-year budget, agreed in Edinburgh in 1992. Mr Clarke chose the latter course, leaving the British taxpayer with a bill of several hundred millions.

In the 1980s several Tory politicians preached endlessly about the importance of catching the "European train". Their meaning is now clear. Italian and Spanish farmers have enjoyed massive subsidies under the common agricultural policy but despite that have flagrantly breached quotas set ten years ago. And now others, not least Britain, have to pay.

This is a grave train — one which should be stopped.

Yours sincerely,  
EDWARD HAY,  
16 Worfield Street, SW11,  
October 22.

ment came to its senses and voted in favour of retaining the elephant on Appendix I. Now, before the next meeting of CITES in November, the Government is once again dragging its feet by failing to declare its position on this important issue.

In September the Department of the Environment convened a meeting in Botswana of African countries to discuss the possible downlisting of the elephant from Appendix I, which could open the way to a possible renewal of the international trade in ivory (Travel, October 27). By calling this meeting the British Government has, in effect, given encouragement to countries such as Japan, where demand for ivory is still high, and has seriously undermined deliberations of

## Paying for extra Brussels spending

From Mr Bernard Jenkin, MP for Colchester North (Conservative) and others

Sir, How much extra tax will we pay to meet the proposed increases in EC spending? The oft-quoted "UK net contribution" does not tell the real story. Much depends upon the EC member states' rates of economic growth, but let us examine "The Government's Expenditure Plans 1994-95 to 1996-97" (Cmd 2517, March 1994).

Table 11.1 shows that the UK gross contribution will rise from £7.4 billion this year to £10.3 billion in 1996-97 and that the UK's abatement will rise from £1.5 billion p.a. to £2.2 billion in 1996-97. Thus, the EC burden on the UK taxpayer will rise from a low point of £5.9 billion — the EC already costs us twice the aid we send to much poorer countries — to more than £8 billion (equivalent to more than one third of the UK defence budget).

In two years' time, the taxpayer will be paying £2.2 billion p.a. more in taxes to fund EC spending programmes.

This will be substantially more than the new revenue from VAT on fuel. After allowing for the additional social security expenditure to cushion its impact, the net proceeds of VAT on fuel in 1996-97 will be only £1.5 billion.

As the Government continues its justified squeeze on public spending, we await the introduction of legislation to raise the spending limits of the EC. This is mainly for more expenditure on the fraud-ridden common agricultural policy and on the structural and cohesion funds.

As these funds are the socialist-style counterpart to the single currency, in which the UK is less and less likely to participate, why then should we pay for cohesion?

Yours etc,  
BERNARD JENKIN,  
JAIN DUNCAN SMITH,  
EDWARD LEIGH,  
House of Commons,  
October 26.

the CITES meeting next month.

The ban on the international trade in ivory has without question been the single most important factor in saving the elephant from extinction. The Government has issued a statement that it is committed to retaining the ban "so long as it is necessary to ensure the survival of the elephant as a species".

Its retention is essential if this very special animal is to survive into the next millennium. The Government should declare its hand unequivocally in favour of maintaining the ban forthwith.

Yours faithfully,  
CHRISTOPHER LEVER,  
Chairman, Tusks,  
115 Ebury Street, SW1.

## A name for Heathrow

From Dr R. J. S. Crossley

Sir, If Heathrow must have a further name (letters, October 21, 25) then surely it must be Cayley in honour of that great Yorkshire scientist, Sir George Cayley (1773-1857). The Wright brothers, after their successful first man-carrying powered flight of 1903, paid tribute to him as having "carried the science of flying to a point which it had never reached before".

In 1805 Cayley built a model glider with fixed wings and moveable tail-control surfaces which flew perfectly. Nearly 50 years later, in 1853, he carried out the first man-carrying flight by a heavier-than-air machine near Scarborough. The man in that machine, by the way, was Sir George's coachman who, on landing not without some damage to his person, memorably tendered his resignation on the grounds that he had been hired as a coachman, not an aviator.

Yours faithfully,  
RICHARD CROSSLEY,  
9 Arncliffe Crossway,  
York,  
October 25.

From Mr Peter Le Marchand

Sir, Do your readers really want to abandon the lovely bucolic name Heathrow, linked with the beginning of civil aviation, and call the airport after James Watt? If the taxi driver says "Where to gov?", and you say "Watt" — what then? On the other hand, the name is historically well suited to our part of the Eurostar train, with just the right touch of gentle farce.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER LE MARCHAND,  
13b Claxton Grove, W6,  
October 21.

From Mr N. D. Hollamby

Sir, Surely the airport should be called Churchill.

Yours most sincerely,  
NIGEL DURDANT HOLLAMBY,  
The Outfield,  
Charthway, Sevenoaks, Kent.

From Dr Vyvyan Howard

Sir, As sections of Heathrow airport are literally in "terminal decline" I feel that the name of a politician would be more appropriate than that of a scientist. How about "Pitt Airport"?

Yours faithfully,  
VYVYAN HOWARD,  
The University of Liverpool,  
Royal Liverpool Children's Hospital,  
Alder Hey,  
Eaton Road, Liverpool L2,  
October 26.

No other profession subjects its entrants to such extensive scrutiny. It is in any case not the newly admitted who default: statistics show that claims on the compensation fund arise in general from those admitted ten years or more. That is why the Law Society has stepped up its monitoring of practising solicitors.

Abolition of the compensation fund is not in the power of the Law Society. Parliament requires its existence as a proper protection for the many members of the public who entrust their moneys to solicitors in the course of conveyancing and many other legal transactions.

Yours faithfully,  
CHARLES ELLY,  
President, The Law Society,  
113 Chancery Lane, WC2,  
October 26.

crying babies; and old men silently holding out one bar of soap for sale. In the north of the country I saw fields bursting with healthy crops of vegetables, yet none of this seems to appear on the tables of Romanians. The food, even for tourists, can be absolutely dreadful.

I was there only three weeks but my local GP, who goes regularly to the orphanage in Cernavoda to look after the children who are dying of Aids, would tell the same story.

Of course it is wrong to breed and sell babies, but if I were that baby I would dearly wish I had been adopted by the Mooneys.

Yours truly,  
ANNE NAYLOR,  
Elm House,  
Bentley Heath, Hertfordshire,  
October 22.

Canada, and with the Russian government, is largely unquestioned, and he is still the most potent reminder of Poland's upbeat past when dealing with Western governments seeking to bully Poland into toeing a line that is not necessarily in its own interest.

President Walesa may at times be an awkward head of state, both to the outside world, and to his own fellow countrymen, but he is still the best guarantee that Polish democracy, economic reforms and independent foreign policy will not be steamrollered into oblivion.

Yours sincerely,  
WIKTOR MOSZCZYNSKI  
(Chairman,  
Polish Solidarity Campaign, 1981-83),  
48 Ingles Road, W5,  
October 24.

## Polish president

From Mr Wiktor Moszczyński

Sir, The heading to Roger Boyes's article today, "The fall of Walesa", is surely somewhat premature, as it is not impossible that the President of Poland may be re-elected next year.

This is due in equal part to the mistakes of his opponents, both on the right, in the ranks of the liberal intelligentsia, and on the post-Communist left, and to his own flashes of the old genius and intuition, such as his dissolution of a politically bankrupt parliament last summer, and inviting the German and Russian presidents to the ceremonies on August 1, marking the 50th anniversary of the Warsaw Uprising.

Walesa's popularity in the USA and

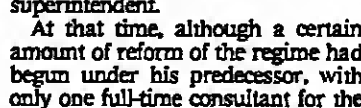






**DR PATRICK McGRATH**

The authorities were understanding enough to consult him as to where he would like to be posted during his convalescence. He had by



McGrath is survived by his wife Helen, three sons and a daughter.

He kept up a constant flow of books and articles. His most informative book was *Taman Budiman: Memoirs of an Unorthodox Civil Servant* (1978), while his friendship with Tunku Abdul Rahman was eloquently expressed in his two-volume *Tunku: A Pictorial Biography*.

For more than 40 years she communicated through meticulous hand-written letters with all her former research students, many of whom also enjoyed her hospitality and a glass of whisky in the relaxing atmosphere of her home. She was unmarried.

Years (1988).  
Simeon Adebo married Regina Abimbola, daughter of Chief D. A. Majekodunmi, in 1941. He is survived by her and by three sons and a daughter.

Adebo was the author of a number of books: with Sir Sydney Phillipson *Report on the Nigerisation of the Nigerian Civil Service* (1953), *Our Unforgettable Years* (1984) and *Our International Years* (1988).

Simone Adebo married Regina Abimbola, daughter of Chief D. A. Majekodunmi, in 1941. He is survived by her and by three sons and a daughter.

sary. Suppressing the line through closed, we would still be able to sources into Afghanistan from and rapidly and with facility. We have to take into account the importance of the strategic points in the North and West of that country. For the purpose of the operations, the regiments composed of Sikhs, Dogras and Pathans would form the backbone of our army. Hence my saying that they could be more easily put in possession of a railway from Peshawar to the North-West Frontier by one starting from Kurraiche. It would be such a railway as is required by the British. We must have its Indian terminus at Lahore. It must be allowed that no one can be expected to give up his regards conveyances of bulky or

will supersede ocean carriage. It is able to compete even, if it is the rate of 40 miles an hour. The of Indian railways just now is 25 an hour, including stoppages : it will afford a higher speed. There are many points remaining for consideration. First, let us hear the opinions of the line through Persia being proposed, Candahar, and Cabool to Herat.

هَكَذَا مِنْهُ الْأَصْلُ



## NEWS

## Aitken denies lying over hotel bill

Jonathan Aitken, backed by the Cabinet Secretary and an aggressive John Major, fiercely countered allegations that he had lied over the bill for a two-day stay at the Paris Ritz as the Government failed to extricate itself from the continuing crisis over sleaze.

The Government was further frustrated with the news that Dame Angela Rumbold, a Tory vice chairman, had stepped down as executive director of a firm of political lobbyists after being reported on her alleged role in the choice of Ebbw Vale for the Channel Tunnel rail link station. Pages 1, 2, 11

## Room 526 haunts Treasury minister

The long walk down the corridor to Room 526 at the Ritz Hotel has come to haunt Jonathan Aitken. Mr Aitken spent two nights in the Al-Fayed hotel last September. Pages 1, 2, 11

## Clinton visits Syria

President Clinton, anxious to cap the Israeli-Jordanian peace treaty with a comprehensive Middle East settlement, became the first US leader in 20 years to visit Syria. Pages 1, 14

## Poll boost for Major

John Major's handling of the Northern Ireland ceasefire has helped to boost his opinion poll rating to its highest level for 18 months, according to a MORI poll for *The Times*. Pages 1, 2, 11

## Soldiers held

Four British soldiers serving with UN forces in Bosnia are still being held by Bosnian Serbs despite promises that they would be released. Pages 1, 17

## Robbers jailed

A former Gordonstoun school boy who carried out violent crimes for kids was jailed for eight years by the High Court in Aberdeen. Page 3

## Grades in doubt

GCSE examination boards were ordered to take urgent action to safeguard standards after Government advisers cast doubt on the value of grades awarded to candidates. Page 5

## Hostage fears

Fears were growing that three Westerners, including a Briton, taken hostage by the Khmer Rouge in July, have been killed by their captors. Page 15

## BR clerk counts cost of straight tie

British Rail escaped being dunned for £700,000 in damages in a Warwickshire court. Its crime? A passenger thought that a BR ticket seller had overstepped the mark when, uninvited, he leant over and straightened the passenger's tie. The case was brought by Ion Roach, 67, who claimed that the BR counter clerk had assaulted him. Page 6

## Film investigated

The British Board of Film Classification is to investigate the alleged links between Oliver Stone's film *Natural Born Killers* and real killings. Page 13

## Riddle solved

The world's most tantalising mathematical riddle may have met its match at the hands of the British-born mathematician who believed he had it solved last year. Page 12

## Labour divided

Tony Blair's intention to promote high-flyers from the 1992 intake via the whip's office led to a row within the Labour Party. Page 11

## Legal reforms

Proposals to streamline the procedures under which the public can challenge decisions by government and local authorities in court were unveiled by the Law Commission. Page 8

## Republicans march

Across the southern United States, from the shopping malls of Miami to backwoods prayer meetings in Tennessee and on to the Texas prairie, Republicans are on the march. Page 16

## Defence policy

Britain hastened its shift towards a "Europeanised" defence policy, and in doing so gave a glimpse of the Government's plans for the next phase of the battle over the shape of the EU. Page 17



Jonathan Aitken and his wife, Lolita, at their London home. Mr Aitken was cleared of any impropriety by Sir Robin Butler

## Economy: Eddie George, Governor of the Bank of England, said it would be a mistake to underestimate the strength of commitment among policy makers in the industrialised world to control inflation. Page 25

## Buses: The Labour Party called for a DTT inquiry into the operating practices of Stagecoach, the bus operator. Page 25

## IC: Third quarter figures from ICI provide further evidence of a worldwide economic recovery that pushed up profits. Page 25

## Markets: The FT-SE 100 index rose 29.7 points to close at 3029.6. Sterling's trade-weighted index rose from 80.5 to 80.8 after a rise from \$1.6324 to \$1.6375 and from DM2.4409 to DM2.4515. Page 28

## Cricket: England's cricketers lost their experimental quarter match in Perth against Western Australia by 51 runs and "nobody cared a boot". Page 46

## Football: Liverpool travel to Blackburn, the club of their former manager, Kenny Dalglish, in one of the most attractive ties produced by the draw for the fourth round of the Coca-Cola Cup. Page 43

## Golf: Two Britons and a Spaniard equalled the course record in the Volvo Masters as the usually difficult course at Valderrama failed to bare its fangs. Page 48

## Rugby league: After losing the captaincy and being dropped from the team, Garry Schofield is back for the international against Australia. Page 42

## Jeremy Fisher: "Catching a fish represents success in inserting yourself into the natural environment." Jeremy Paxman talks to Valerie Grove. Page 18

## Better buses: "To solve the problem of too much private motoring, it is not necessary to remove people's freedom to drive," argues Libby Purves. Page 18

## Village life: An experiment using new technology was used to "breathe life" into a village. Has it worked? Page 37

## Helping hands: New designs for keyboards point to a more natural posture. Page 39

## UK telecoms: A 16-page report on the telecommunications future. Page 35

Big find: In *Pentecost*, David Edgar's "fascinating but flawed" new play for the RSC in Stratford, the discovery of an art work could mean that the entire history of Western art has to be rewritten. Page 33Manhattan of the North: Herb Gardner's 1992 Broadway hit, *Conversations With My Father*, starts its British life in Scarborough in Alan Ayckbourn's polished, strongly cast new production starring Judd Hirsch. Page 33

## Come off it: Having breached every bastion of good taste in her books, films, stage shows, interviews and previous albums, Madonna finds herself with nothing left to expose, as her latest release reveals. Page 35

Where it began: Opinions are divided as to what the *Forming Stones* of the great rock'n'roll palace are: which inventions, moments and people made rock the gorgeous, bloody-nosed beast it is today. Caitlin Moran chooses hers. Page 36

## Syria, which President Clinton visited, can play a major role either to promote or to try to undercut regional political moderation. King Hussein showed great courage when he chose to proceed independently of his radical neighbour. Page 20

## Rubella vaccine and ethics: saving elephants. Page 21

Ellen DeGeneres is the heroine of the latest American sitcom, *Ellen* (Channel 4, 9pm), about a single woman. Page 47

## Charm offensive

Every idea emanating from London, however sensible, will still be filtered through a fine mesh of Celtic scepticism. The Foreign Secretary should have no illusions about the magnitude of the task he has set. Page 21

## Out of the pit

By publishing Sir Robin Butler's inquiry and setting up the Nolan committee on standards in public life, the Prime Minister has whetted the public's appetite for the truth. Page 21

## Courts and the citizen

If Parliament and the courts pay heed to the latest recommendations of the Law Commission, the effectiveness of judicial review will be further enhanced. Page 21

## PHILIP HOWARD

"Comrades! It really is human," said Napoleon. "This time men have stepped over the trough in their heads on other animals." Page 20

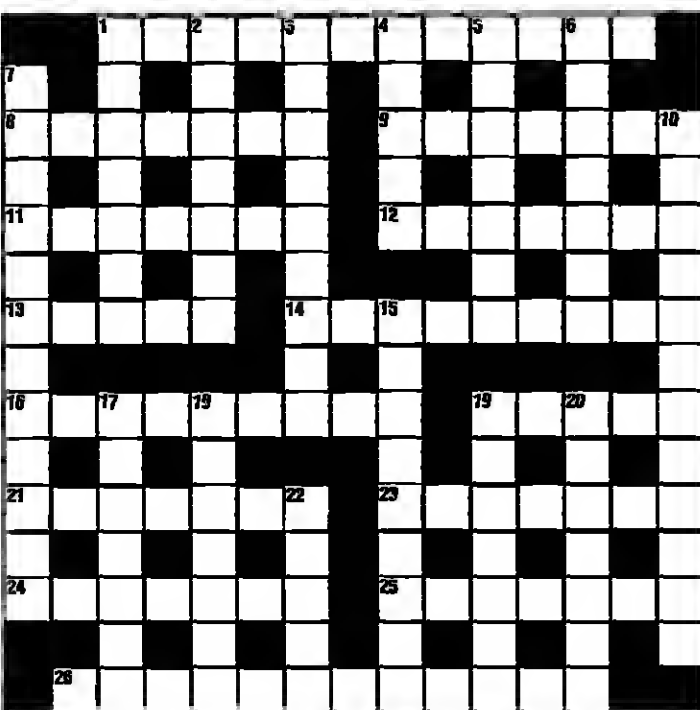
## BERNARD LEVIN

Now I am sorry to burden you with matters that concern a quarrel in a faraway country between people of whom we know nothing, but when the people involved have not only the superior force, but all the force for many miles around, it behoves me to point out that there is a huge, numberless crowd of poor, frightened, tortured, cast-out, perpetually threatened people, whose only crime was to get caught up in other people's battles; and that those who have brought about this wickedness are claiming that no such thing has ever happened. Page 20

Dr Patrick McGrath, former medical superintendent at Broadmoor, Professor Gwendolyn Rees, parasitologist; Mervyn Sheppard, Malaya specialist; Chief Simon Adeb, former Nigerian permanent representative at the United Nations. Page 23

Rubella vaccine and ethics: saving elephants. Page 21

## THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 19,685



- ACROSS
- Doubt over issue facing an evangelist (8,4).
  - Mixed oils in a thickening for soups (7).
  - Heather's carrying in materials for use in garments (7).
  - Gather a small number to make a big fire (7).
  - Where climbers are trained to fit in by the French (7).
  - Show embarrassment when attacked in the field (5).
  - Cheek, when daughter replaces son! What laziness! (9).
  - George gives gold to a sanctimonious bunch (9).
  - Border demonstration (5).
  - Heroic novel about the Orient is so long! (7).
  - One who makes a surrattling sound when stocktaking? (7).
- DOWN
- Question a female judge raised with a drinker (7).
  - King enters, followed and protected (7).
  - Fashion salon with tiro of Figaro's trade (9).
  - Deck game taken up around the end of October (5).
  - Dog that finds fungus no good for eating (7).
  - Adversely criticize the reduction (3,4).
  - Unidentified object produced by bull in china shop? (6,6).
  - In Asia he entertains treacherous and attractive people (5,7).
  - Resolve, in English period, to take courses outside (9).
  - Betrayal in the theatre, as O'Neill represented it (7).
  - Some individual given thanks for a composition (7).
  - Fellow covering up second army's blunder (7).
  - Depending on a priest to interrupt a tirade (7).
  - Conceding not everyone is in debt (5).

## Solution to Puzzle No 19,684

OBASEMENT DAILY  
REALISATION TREE  
Y V P C U M J U  
BETH HERBERTIST  
S E B E A S E  
EXTENSION COUSIN  
D C X P R A  
AUBURN TOMBROWN  
N E A S L A R T  
CHAINMAIL ROCK  
H R E L S B H A  
AXIS CONTRABAND  
I N M E R R E  
RUGA BIFLAGGARDEN

## THE TIMES

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 5000 followed by the appropriate code.

Region	Forecast
Greater London	701
Kent/Surrey/Sussex	702
Devon/Hants & Dorset	703
Down & Cornwall	704
Wilt/Gloucestershire/Somerset	705
Berks/Bucks/Oxon	706
Bedfordshire & Essex	707
Norfolk/Suffolk/Cambs	708
West Mid & Shropshire & Cheshire	709
Shropshire/Hants & Dorset	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincoln & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Ceredigion & Gwynedd	715
NW England	716
W & S Yorks & Wales	717
NE England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
SW Scotland	720
W & Central Scotland	721
Edin & Fife/Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Highland & E Highlands	724
NW Scotland	725
Orkney, Shetland & Hebrides	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 30p per minute (cheap rates) and 45p per minute at all other times.

## For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 036 401 followed by the appropriate code.

London & SE traffic, roadworks

Area within M25	Forecast
South/East/Leamington/Birmingham	731
South/East/Leamington/Birmingham	732
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## Weather: Highest day temps: Poole, Dorset, 15C (59F); lowest day temp: Tisbury, Wiltshire, 8C (46F); highest night temp: Buxton, Derbyshire, 9.1C (48.4F); lowest night temp: Buxton, Derbyshire, 2.1C (35.8F).

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## General: England and Wales will have a mostly bright day with sunny spells, any showers, being largely confined to the morning. Increasing cloud will bring rain to western areas in the evening. Northern Ireland will have sunshine and a few showers before rain moves in during the evening. Showers over Scotland, mainly in the north and west, will rainier towards the northern isles, leaving all parts, especially the east, with some sunshine. Rain will reach the south-west towards midnight.

## London, SE England, E Anglia, E England, NE England, Borders, Edinburgh &amp; Dundee, Aberdeen, Moray Firth: sunny or clear periods, isolated daytime showers. Wind west or south-west, mainly moderate. Max 12C (54F).

## Central S England, E Midlands, Channel Isles, Central N England: sunny spells, showers dying out, cloudy later. Wind west or southwest, mainly moderate. Max 12C (54F).

## W Midlands, SW England, S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Argyll, N Ireland: sunny spells, showers dying out, rain later. Wind west or southwest, moderate, becoming fresh or strong later. Max 12C (54F).

## Central Highlands, NW Scotland: sunny or clear intervals, showers dying out. Wind northwest, becoming southeast, mainly light. Max 11C (52F).

## NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland: rather cloudy, scattered showers. Wind mainly variable, light. Max 10C (50F).

## Outlook: unsettled, rain or showers in all areas. Becoming milder, but also windy.

## JERRYBUILDING

## Jonathan Meades (left) on Germany's architectural monuments to Nazism.

## NURSERY TALK

## Libby Purves delights in a volume of politically correct bedtime stories.

## Sunny

## Sunny intervals

## Cloudy

## Drizzle

## Overcast

## Rain

## Sunny showers



Humour is big business in the world of the PC

Madonna: in the charts but out of new ideas

Perryman on the defensive over Tottenham failings

BRITISH  
PLANT  
RESEARCH  
Pages 40-41

# THE TIMES

BUSINESS EDITOR Lindsay Cook

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1994

## Inflation fears exaggerated, says Bank chief

By Janet Bush, Economics Correspondent

EDDIE George, Governor of the Bank of England, said yesterday that inflation is less likely to be a problem in the current world economic upturn than in past ones and that present fears of higher inflation in the financial markets are probably exaggerated.

Speaking to the EuroMoney International Bond Congress in London, Mr George said that the markets were bound to be cynical in the light of past failures to contain inflation but that it would be a mistake to underestimate the strength of the commitment among industrialised countries to price stability this time around. He also said that markets have not fully taken on board the progress being made in cutting budget deficits.

Mr George has often expressed frustration recently

with the large rise in bond yields this year and is clearly campaigning to rebuild confidence in the gilt-edged market. Yesterday, he cited a number of other factors bearing down on inflation, including a huge overhang of structural unemployment, particularly in Europe, and intense competition in Britain and globally.

He also emphasised that interest rates are already quite high in real terms and that this has dampened down growth in money supply. He said: "Whatever the reason, it would be extraordinary if we had a strong acceleration of inflation with such slow monetary growth."

In spite of this optimism, Mr George repeated his conviction that governments must tighten monetary policy before higher inflation turns up in statistics and continue efforts to cut budget deficits. If this were done, he said, there was "a better chance than is perhaps recognised that inflationary pressures can be successfully restrained in the short term."

These views were echoed by Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, at a question time. He told MPs: "We will be able to keep inflation rates down, and still maintain our monetary policy, if we act in good time, if our fiscal policy is sound and if we keep on the course that we have now set."

Comments from both men were closely scrutinised for any clues as to how discussions will run at their monthly monetary meeting on interest rate policy next Wednesday. There is already speculation that another rate rise may be agreed in the light of this week's CBI survey, which showed another rise in the proportion of manufacturers who intend to put prices up over the next few months.

Answering questions after his speech, Mr George said the Bank was continuing to monitor emerging capacity constraints, lengthening delivery times and some price increases that have shown up in CBI surveys, but added that monetary policy would not be decided on this evidence alone.

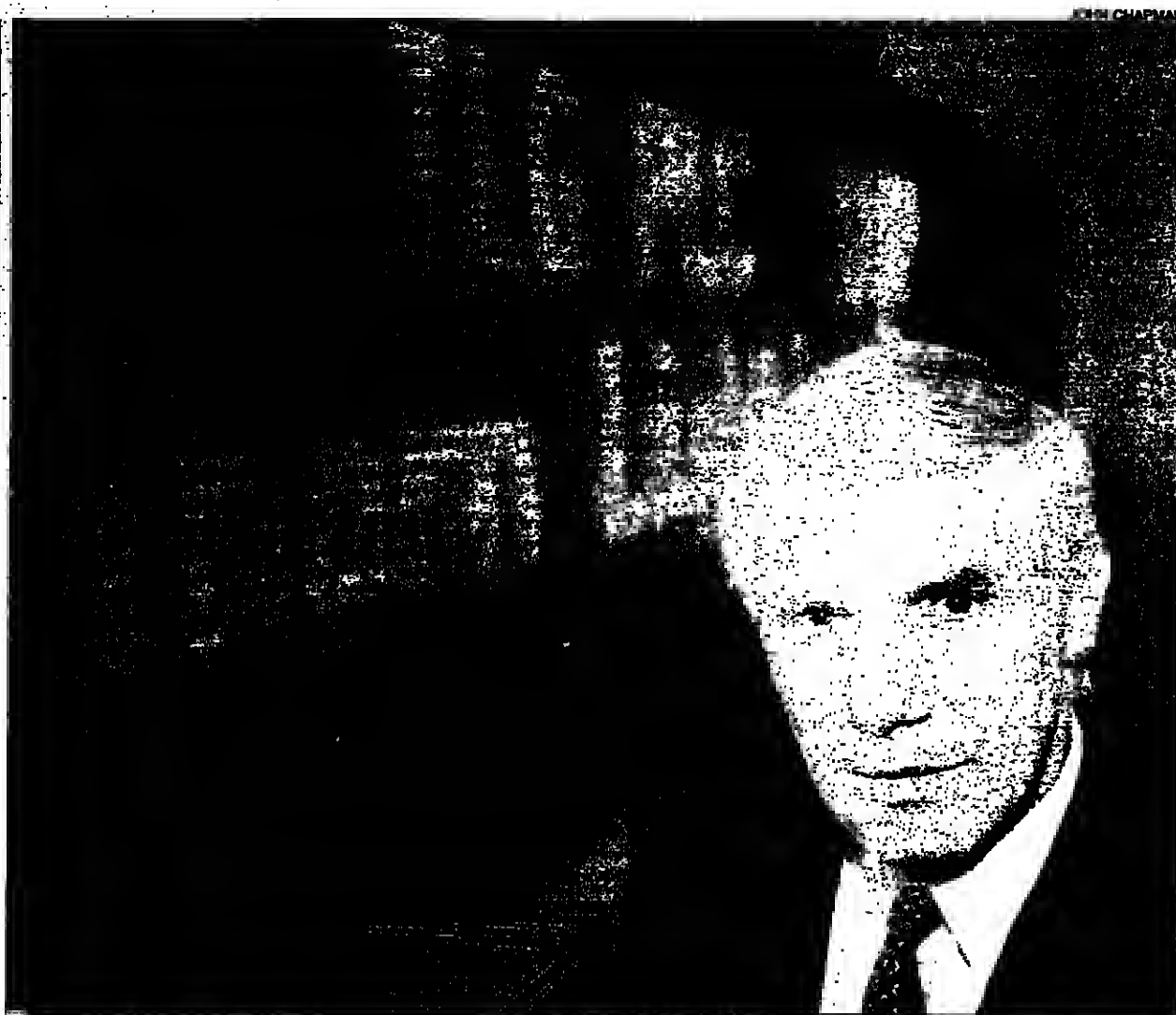
These comments coincided with a warning from the CBI that Britain's international competitiveness is being put at risk by pay awards creeping above the rate of inflation.

Pay deals in manufacturing averaged 2.9 per cent in the third quarter, compared with 2.8 per cent in the second, and 2.6 per cent in the first, according to the CBI's Pay Database. In services, pay awards were 3.4 per cent, against 3.3 per cent and 2.6 per cent in the previous two quarters.

Howard Davies, CBI director-general, said: "While the increase in pay awards is marginal, the slight upward shift over the last six months gives cause for concern." He noted that, although British productivity gains suggest that unit labour costs would continue to fall, Britain is no longer matching key competitors, such as America and Germany, which are seeing falls of 2 and 3 per cent a year.

This caution on pay contrasted with Mr George's speech in which he asserted that "upward pressure on labour costs is likely to remain weaker than in earlier expansions." National Westminster Bank said that 100,000 new businesses started trading in the three months to September, the largest number in any quarter since March, 1992. The bank said that the figures were a sign that confidence was returning.

Pennington, page 27



Coming to market: the stake of Hamish Bryce, chairman, will be worth £3.4 million after the flotation

## TLG flotation price lower than forecast

DOLDRUMS in the new issues market have forced City advisers to TLG, the lighting firm that was bought out from Thorn EMI, to cut the price at which the company is floated (Susan Gilchrist writes). TLG will be valued at £204.3 million, £20 million lower than forecast.

Shares will be priced at 15p; 58.7 million shares are being placed with institutional investors, and the remaining 19.6 million reserved for the public and employees.

The existing investors — Investcorp, Thorn EMI and the management — will retain 45.6 and 7 per cent, respectively. The stake of Hamish Bryce, the chairman, will be worth £3.4 million.

## Big leap in ICI earnings underlines world upturn

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

THIRD-QUARTER figures from ICI, Britain's leading chemicals group, provide further evidence of worldwide economic recovery. Profits moved smartly ahead in all the group's divisions.

Pre-tax profits, shorn of those from the Zeneca pharmaceuticals operation that was spun off last year, and excluding exceptional gains, improved from £239 million to £265 million in the first nine months of the year. For the third quarter itself, the jump was even more pronounced — from £59 million to £131 million.

The company, meanwhile,

said it was investing £100 million in a new plant at its site at Rozenburg in The Netherlands. It would make MDI, an important component in the manufacture of polyurethanes. Much of the plant's output will be shipped to China. The investment is a further step in the expansion of key businesses to give them global scale.

Sir Denys Henderson, the chairman, said: "ICI remains on track. Our businesses have continued to build on their positive start to the year and have delivered encouraging results in the face of strong competition." But the figures

were a little below some estimates, and his optimism on prospects for the world economy was not sufficient to prevent the shares falling 12½p, to 786½p.

Sir Denys said most of the profit improvement had come from volume gains and improved productivity; prices in the nine months had been largely unchanged against the corresponding period. Demand in most of the developed world looked more promising than for some time, with recovery under way in continental Europe.

Tempus, page 28

## BUSINESS TODAY

FT-SE 100	3029.8	(+29.7)
Yield	4.18%	
FT-SE All share	1508.35	(+11.75)
Nikkei	19796.36	(+50.01)
Dow Jones	3883.04	(+14.81)*
S&P Composite	464.66	(+2.04)*

Federal Funds	4 1/4%	(4 1/4%)
Long Bond	5 3/4%	(5 3/4%)
Yield	5.04%	(5.07%)

3-mth Interbank	5 1/4%	(5 1/4%)
Life long gilt	100%	(89%)

New York	1.6370*	(1.6380)
London	1.6380	(1.6337)
DM	2.4516	(2.4411)
FF	8.3965	(8.3590)
Sfr	2.0515	(2.0385)
Yen	168.84	(168.47)
£ Index	80.8	(80.5)

DM	1.6673*	(1.6611)
FF	5.1230*	(5.1045)
Sfr	1.2688*	(1.2420)
Yen	96.50*	(96.63)
£ Index	80.7	(80.7)

Tokyo close Yen	96.88	
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Brent 15-day (Jan)	\$16.75	(\$16.65)
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London close	\$388.65	(\$388.95)
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\* denotes midday trading price

## Taxing question

A top committee, set up because of mounting public concern about the inefficiency and complexity of the tax system, meets for the first time today to establish an initial programme of work, under the presidency of Lord Howe, a former Chancellor of the Exchequer. The committee has all-party support and is being financed by the Bank of England. Page 26

## New cocktail

Reshaping of Allied Domecq, the worldwide drinks and food group formerly known as Allied-Lyons, is continuing after this year's acquisition of control of Pedro Domecq, the Spanish drinks producer. Page 27

## Labour call for DTI inquiry on Stagecoach

By Gwyneth Evans

THE Labour Party yesterday called for a Department of Trade and Industry inquiry into the operating practices of Stagecoach, the bus company.

Brian Wilson, the party's trade spokesman, said in a letter to Michael Heseltine, President of the Board of Trade, that when Stagecoach moved into an area it "flooded the area with buses, to undercut existing operators and to create a bus war which they are guaranteed to win because they invariably have the deeper pockets."

The OFT said yesterday that it had looked at 18 mergers involving Stagecoach between the end of 1989 and today, which were to be seen as part of the ordinary advice given by the OFT to the DTI on whether to allow a takeover to proceed, and to which nothing sinister ought to be attached.

It had also looked at two Stagecoach subsidiaries, South Down and Fife Scottish, under the Competition Act. In the Fife inquiry, the company gave undertakings to the OFT after having been found to have acted anti-competitively.

Denis Scott, finance director of Stagecoach, disputed Mr Wilson's claims. He said that 18 of 21 reports by the OFT had cleared Stagecoach.

A BBC TV documentary in the *Southern Eye* series highlights Stagecoach, claiming that it often ended up with local monopolies in new areas after rivals had gone out of business.

## Hydro braced to tackle regulator

By Martin Waller, Deputy City Editor

SCOTTISH Hydro-Electric is expected today to issue an official challenge to the electricity industry regulator by facing a Monopolies and Mergers Commission (MMC) review of its latest ruling.

The company has until Monday to say whether it will accept the decision on the permitted level of price rises earlier this month by Stephen Littlechild, of the Office of Electricity Regulation, which Hydro believes unfairly penalises it compared with the rest of the power industry.

Hydro will make a formal announcement of the board's decision this morning. Although the company was strictly refusing to comment on which way it would jump, industry sources believe it will opt for a confrontation. A

refusal, unprecedented among the power firms, to accept Professor Littlechild's ruling would require a lengthy examination by the MMC of the latest formula governing prices north of the border.

But the increasing chance that Hydro has been pushed to just such a course of action was reflected by recent falls in its share price.

Although the shares ended unchanged yesterday, they have slipped by 12p to 313p over the past week as analysts worried over the uncertainty an MMC inquiry would bring.

This has widened the price gap between Hydro and ScottishPower, which is expected to accept the Littlechild ruling. Its shares gained 7p to 349p yesterday and are now unchanged over the past week.

## Ladbroke loses Euro court bid

By George Sivell, Assistant Business Editor

THE European courts have thrown out a bid by Ladbroke, the bookmaker, to try to force the European Commission to end the French betting monopoly, the Pari Mutuel Urbain.

Ladbroke is keen to expand its betting operations in mainland Europe, and has asked the European Court of First Instance to declare that the Commission had broken European Union law by not ordering the French government to stop giving exclusive rights to the Pari Mutuel Urbain over off-course betting in France.

The court dismissed Ladbroke's appeal as "inadmissible" on technical grounds.

Ladbroke has three other cases pending in the court aimed at opening up the

betting systems in France and Germany.

The group said yesterday that it was still confident of being able to make progress "over time" in its attempts to open up the betting industry in continental Europe to further competition, despite yesterday's dismissal.

Ladbroke said: "We are reviewing the decision and in due course will decide what further action to take."

The problem Ladbroke faces in attempting to break up the European betting monopolies is that it is not clearly defined if betting is covered by the Treaty of Rome. Yesterday's ruling applied to only one article and the future cases will consider other articles.

Pennington, page 27

## Hard cheese for McPloughman's

By Philip Bassett, Industrial Editor

MCDONALD'S, the US hamburger chain, disclosed yesterday that it had considered plans to introduce a "McPloughman" in Britain, aimed at countering "horrific" opposition to its American franchises.

The company said that customers in Britain saw it as arrogant, insensitive and uncaring. It had "struggled" through the recession to find out what it had been doing wrong.

The company's revelation came from Paul Preston, UK president and chief executive officer. He revealed that a version of the traditional British Ploughman's lunch of bread, cheese and pickle was piloted to try to fight competition from supermarket chains.



He told the annual conference of the Institute of Personnel and Development: "We figured we needed a share of the action, and we developed... wait for it... McPloughman's."

But he admitted that the company had not researched the McPlough-

man's sufficiently well with either its customers or its staff, who were too embarrassed to mention or serve it. "If we had done our homework we would have found that our customers didn't want the product and our staff were embarrassed even to have to say McPloughman's, let alone have to sell it to our customers."

McDonald's abandoned the idea. Its move came after it was hit hard in the British economic recession of the early 1990s, when it realised that the service formula which had sustained it since opening its first fast-food hamburger restaurant in 1974 was no longer working.

McDonald's commissioned "extensive" research among UK customers, and Mr Preston acknowledged that the company was "shocked" by its

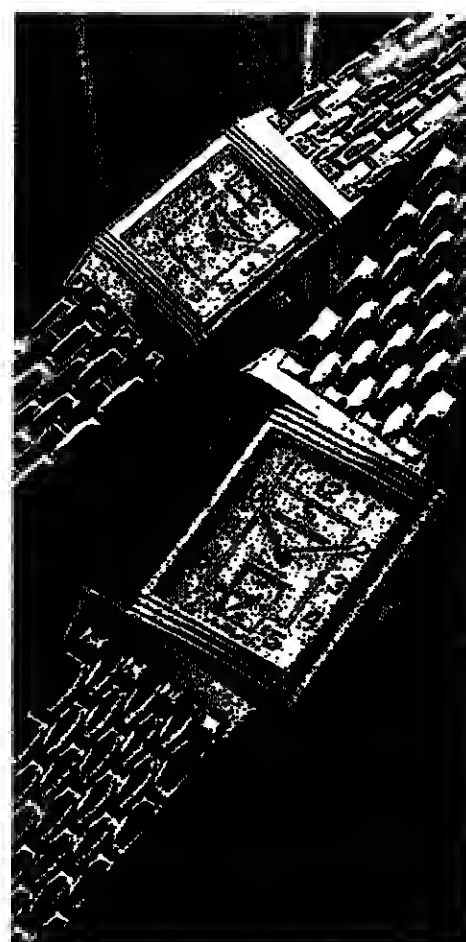
"horrific" findings. These showed that British customers regarded the US chain as loud, brash, complacent, uncaring, insensitive, insincere, suspicious, disciplinarian and arrogant.

Mr Preston said that as a result of its customer research, the company — which recently disclosed that its UK staff would no longer have to say automatically such Americanisms as "have a nice day!" to every customer — had brought in a "radical change" in its approach to doing business in Britain, listening much more closely to what customers wanted.

McDonald's now has 530 hamburger restaurants throughout Britain, employing 32,000 people, with sales totalling more than £650 million.

IPD conference, page 26

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# Tax review body meets for first time today

By JANET BUSH, ECONOMICS CORRESPONDENT

A TOP level committee, set up because of mounting public concern about the inefficiency and complexity of the tax system, meets for the first time today to establish an initial programme of work.

Under the presidency of Lord Howe, a former Chancellor of the Exchequer, the committee has all-party support and is being financed by the Bank of England, two clearing banks, leading public industrial companies, and prominent legal and accountancy firms. It will sit under the auspices of the Institute for Fiscal Studies and has full backing from the Treasury and the Inland Revenue.

Members include Alistair Darling, Labour's City spokesman, and Sir William Gorton, a member of the Liberal Democrat's policy committee. It will be chaired by Graham Aaronson, QC, a leading tax barrister. The judiciary will be represented at the highest level by Lord Templeman and Lord Nolan, appointed this week as head of John Major's new ethics committee.

Mr Aaronson said: "The perception that matters cannot go on as they have brought together a strong committee, which ensures that note will be taken of its recommendations."

The idea of the committee was first discussed two years ago over lunch by Malcolm Gammie, a partner at Linklaters & Paines and chairman of the IFS Executive Committee, and about six other leading tax practitioners.

Mr Gammie said that the motivation for the new committee came from the sheer volume and complexity of new tax legislation. He added: "Parliament has enacted more and more tax legislation and less and less people can get to grips with it."

He added that new laws were so complicated that the Inland Revenue was having to issue endless practice statements and general explanations which was, he said, clearly self-defeating.

Probable areas of consideration will include the ever-increasing burden on the tax system of higher numbers of self-employed and the balance of taxation between employees on PAYE and the self-employed; the complexities of Capital Gains Tax as policy moves towards self-assessment; issues arising out of parallel systems of income tax and National Insurance and, on the broadest level, the sheer volume of form filling with which the public is burdened.

The committee intends to issue reports on different topics at regular intervals and, as a permanent body to review tax questions, breaks the cycle of looking at tax issues just once a year in the run-up to the Budget.

Mr Gammie said that the committee was not designed to make tax policy, but to make policy work. However, he said that it was conceivable that the committee might recommend a change in tax policy if that was the only way to make a particular aspect of the system workable.

Sponsors have initially agreed to fund the committee for an initial period of three years. It is intended that members will meet four times a year.

A measure of the broad remit of the committee is the wide variety of members. Leading tax experts are joined, for example, by Sue Slipman, director of the National Council for One-Parent Families, and Sally Witcher, director of the Child Poverty Action Group.



Lord Howe has been appointed to the presidency of the committee, which has backing from the Inland Revenue

## Ruling may push Lloyd's agencies into insolvency

By SARAH BAGNALL, INSURANCE CORRESPONDENT

MANY of the 71 Lloyd's members' agencies involved in the Gooda Walker case face possible insolvency because their insurers are questioning whether they should fund any interim payment awarded to litigating names.

After their High Court victory this month, the 3,096 litigating Gooda Walker names are seeking early payment of part of the compensation award they are due to receive. This has thrown up issues relevant to many other action groups — there are more than 30 — and, as a result, Mr Justice Phillips, the judge, has convened a hearing today with the action groups' solicitors.

The main concern relates to the 98 errors and omissions (E&O) insurers, who provided insurance cover to the members' agents. In the High

Court action, the names successfully proved negligence on the part of the 71 members' agents and, as a result, the agents are calling on the E&O insurance cover.

Last Friday, Mr Justice Phillips met Wilde Sapte, solicitors to the action group; Elborne Mitchell, solicitors to the members' agents; and Clyde and Co, solicitors to the E&O insurers. Michael Deeny, the chairman of the Gooda Walker Action Group, said: "Clyde & Co argued that the E&O insurers would not be liable to fund any interim payment awarded by Mr Justice Phillips."

Michael Payton, at Clyde & Co, said the E&O insurers wanted the court to determine whether the agents' insurance policies were triggered by an interim payment. "We owe a duty of care to the names on

the E&O syndicates and their reinsurers," he said.

If the court rules that the E&O insurers should not cover the interim payment, it would have to be funded by the members' agents. Many agencies would be forced into insolvency, because the vast bulk of their assets are in the form of their E&O insurance.

Mr Justice Phillips is expected to provide a timetable for considering this argument, together with other issues, at today's hearing.

The other issues include taxation. The members' agents are said to be arguing that the judgment will be tax-free and, therefore, that the payment should be reduced to take this into account. However, the names believe that the Inland Revenue will tax the compensation award as a trading income.

## Ziff family sells publisher for \$1.4bn

THE Ziff family is selling its Ziff-Davis Publishing Co to Forstmann Little & Co, a private investment firm, for \$1.4 billion in cash.

Forstmann Little is acquiring five units — business media, consumer media, international media, market research and Ziff-Davis Interactive. Not included in the transaction are Ziff-Davis's trade show business, Ziff's Interchange Network Co and Information Access Co. The family said that these remaining properties were being auctioned.

The Ziff family will retain a small equity interest in the company, and Ziff-Davis will continue to be based in New York City and run by its current management team.

## Montague granted stay of execution

ROBERT Montague, head of Central Transport Rental Group, formerly Tipton, won a stay of execution ahead of a bankruptcy hearing originally set for today at Oxford Crown Court. His banks had been asked to agree a month's grace while he put together an individual voluntary arrangement, an alternative to bankruptcy that would require the agreement of three-quarters of his creditors.

The court last night agreed to an adjournment while Mr Montague continued negotiations with his banks. He has been given a fixed time to prepare an arrangement to present to court. Such an arrangement usually involves phased payment of debts out of existing assets and future earnings. Bankruptcy would require his disqualification as a director of any public company.

## Permanent premium

SHARES in Irish Permanent, Ireland's largest building society before it converted to bank status, were at a 19 per cent premium in their first day of trading yesterday. The shares closed at 215p, valuing the company at £218.45 million, compared with their 180p flotation price. Just under half the 27.7 million new shares issued, to raise £57 million, were sold to people who were members of Irish Permanent when it was a mutual society. Market report, page 28

## Setback for Thames

THAMES Water is considering its next move after Ian Byatt, director-general of the industry regulator, said its plans to take over water supply to 20,000 households from East Surrey, a smaller rival water company, did not appear to be legally viable. At an informal meeting with Thames, Mr Byatt said he did not think its plan could be justified under current legislation. Croydon council had asked Thames to take over as water supplier because its charges are lower.

## EC backs Orly challenge

BRITISH Airways and other airlines seeking access to Paris Orly airport won the European Commission's blessing to take the French Government to court yesterday, the deadline for the European Court of Justice order that France opens up Orly, Marcelino Oreja, the European transport commissioner, urged airlines to seek redress in the French courts after the French Transport Minister said he would only open two key domestic routes from Orly next January.

## Budget plea on whisky

WHISKY makers have urged Kenneth Clarke, the Chancellor, to cut taxes on Scotch and other spirits by 10 per cent in the Budget. The move would be a help to Scotch sales and boost Treasury coffers, strengthening Mr Clarke's hand in negotiations on excise duties in Europe, the Scotch Whisky Association said. At those negotiations, Mr Clarke must hold out for significant cuts in overseas excise duties that "discriminate" against Scotch, it said.

### TOURIST RATES

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia \$	2.23	2.14
Austria Sch	16.10	16.09
Belgium Fr	33.44	49.04
Canada \$	2.31	2.11
Cyprus Cyp£	0.781	0.731
Denmark Kr	10.15	9.35
Finland Mk	8.03	7.53
France Fr	8.05	8.15
Germany DM	2.60	2.50
Greece Dr	382.00	387.00
Hong Kong \$	15.27	15.27
Ireland P£	1.06	0.99
Italy Lire	2395.00	2440.00
Japan Yen	173.50	156.50
Malta	0.622	0.567
Netherlands Gld	2.68	2.658
Norway Kr	11.21	10.41
Portugal Esc	260.50	242.00
S Africa Rd	ref	5.45
Spain Ptas	211.00	187.00
Sweden Kr	12.19	11.39
Switzerland Fr	2.18	2.01
Turkey Lira	ref	86097.0
USA \$	1.702	1.592

Notes for small denomination banknotes only as supplied by Barclays Bank PLC. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading yesterday.

### INSTITUTE OF PERSONNEL AND DATA

## Some banks 'will not survive'

SIR Brian Pitman, the chief executive of Lloyds Bank, said that some high street banks would disappear as the banking industry shakeout deepened. He said financial services in Britain, which had already lost 160,000 jobs in the past five years, faced the kind of upheaval that manufacturing industry had already gone through.

He told the conference in Harrogate that widespread overcapacity in banking, at a time of low economic growth, would produce "unprecedented levels of competition, in which only the most productive companies are going to win". The challenge was "survival".

The gap between the best and worst

performers "is likely to widen: the weakest will disappear". Banks that could become leaders in customer service, asset quality, costs and innovation would, however, emerge stronger than ever.

Banks' problems had been "masked" by the inflationary boom of the 1980s, Sir Brian said, but low inflation would have a profound effect. Low inflation would mean low demand for loans, and inflation would no longer "bail out" poor advances on property, so banks would have to manage their businesses more rigorously.

He said: "Banks' annual accounts will no longer be distorted by inflation giving them a deceptive gloss of health." Having learned to live with inflation, banks and

other organisations would now have to learn to live without it. They would, for instance, no longer be able to afford automatic annual pay rises if they were to survive increasing competition.

Bank unions attacked the speech. Ed Swenney, the deputy general secretary of Biff, the bank union, said: "He should stop, look and listen to what his staff and customers are saying. The opprobrium heaped on the banks during the last few years shows they are out of step with the public mood."

PHILIP BASSETT  
Industrial Editor

## 'Little Thatchers' in the ascendant

"LITTLE Thatchers" — confident Conservatives, willing to get on their bikes and look for work, but not outside the UK, and who are smart in appearance and believe casual sex to be irresponsible — are now dominant among university graduates, personnel managers who recruit them were told yesterday.

Thatcherite university graduates, whose attitudes reflect many of the values associated with the previous Prime Minister, Lady Thatcher, now form a quarter of all Britain's students, new research shows.

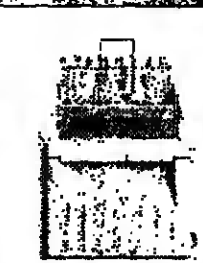
Using a technique called cluster analysis which brings together a range of people surveyed in order to examine them as a whole, research by the Gallup polling organisation shows that Little Thatchers are the group

of graduates most likely to have jobs, and who are most pleased with and committed to their work.

The research shows Little Thatcher graduates to be a "determined group who have the highest salary expectations", looking for starting salaries of £12,800. They are the most willing to move within the UK for a job, yet least willing to move abroad. They want jobs in industry, engineering and law, but are less likely to consider jobs in advertising, art, charity work or journalism.

The research says Little Thatchers like to be smartly dressed, are conventional in nature, and "think more than other groups that it is irresponsible to have casual sex, and are the least likely to ever knowingly buy stolen goods".

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□ Pain and blood in the bond markets □ Ladbroke's long odds in Europe □ Stagecoach's unstoppable drive

## The uncertainty premium

GOVERNOR Eddie George's words of wisdom on the decline and fall of world bond markets make fascinating reading but will do little to alleviate the undercurrents of anxiety running through the City. The Governor alludes to the "uncertainty premium" and acknowledges that investors and market intermediaries, who did so well during the market boom, "have been shellshocked by their losses this year."

Robust language for the Governor, but nothing compared with phrases available from below decks. As one influential merchant banker put it to *Pennington* yesterday: "There is a lot of pain and blood out there. Financial institutions are not only suffering from market-making operations in fixed interest securities but also from proprietary positions taken on their own account. Many are locked in. They cannot afford to sell at these levels."

Although the downward spiral in bonds has proved an international phenomenon, the pain is perceived to be most acute in Wall Street and London; the diagnosis taking the form of multi-billion pound paper losses encompassing a host of banks and financial institutions.

Back to the Governor who, referring to events after February's tightening of US monetary

policy, recounts how "fingers were pointed at the hedge funds, operating through the dreaded derivatives markets". In the event, the Bank's analysis does not identify any "special culprits" and George stresses that the substantial volume of portfolio adjustment away from bonds reflected "a much wider range of participants than just the hedge funds". In his words: "It encompassed the proprietary and managed funds of a wide range of major banking and investment groups."

So much for those with the foresight and/or the flexibility to adjust portfolios. What is causing concern in the City is the plight of those funds where adjustment processes were overtaken by fast lane yields.

Recent revelations have proved anything but auspicious. HSBC Holdings effectively suspended proprietary trading on bond markets after losing £123 million on bond and interest rate-related operations at the mid-year stage. Earlier this month, SG Warburg rang the alarm bells loud and clear with word that 1994 mid-year profits

will be less than half last year's at between £55 million and £65 million. Lord Cairns, Warburg's chief executive, declared: "Conditions in the world's securities markets have had a severe impact on our equity and fixed interest operations." A similar bulletin emanated from Hambros, with deputy chairman Sir Chips Keswick remarking that "no hedging is perfect".

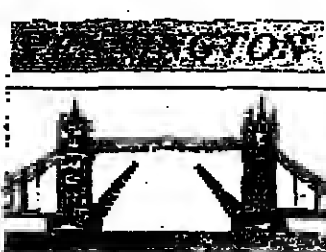
Multi-million dollar third-quarter losses from Salomon Brothers have been followed by widespread redundancies at Goldman Sachs.

Such is the "uncertainty premium."

### A one horse

#### race

LADBROKE has tried its hand in the lottery of the European courts and come off poorer. The mandarins in Brussels may have thrown all their weight behind single European markets in insurance and banking but a single market in betting and gaming seems like a pipe dream. Ladbroke is not asking for much in its



legal challenge. It merely wants to cover French racing in its 600 Belgian betting shops. But the Pari Mutuel Urbain, the French betting monopoly, will not allow it. Instead, it will only do business with Ladbroke's main Belgian rival, which is also suspiciously called the Pari Mutuel Urbain, another government-controlled gambling institution.

Like many British companies, Ladbroke is keen to expand in Europe, and French racing is the key to all its plans, since millions of punters like a flutter on the Prix de l'Arc de Triomphe. Ladbroke is not doing anything as cheeky as questioning the French government's right to own an absolute monopoly on racecourse betting. The odds

against the success of such a challenge would be too long to calculate. It is merely trying to nibble around the edges of the monolithic PMI and complaining about its fondness for arranging shut-out deals with old friends, and not getting very far. As a result, Ladbroke's attempts at European expansion have been thrown into reverse.

The group used to have betting shops in The Netherlands and a pilot outlet in Berlin, but it has realised they are not worth the effort without access to French racing.

This must rankle greatly with Ladbroke's new management, led by Peter George, the chief executive, which has decided to emphasise and expand the group's core gaming division. This year, the group has already moved back into the casino business in London and funded a move into poker halls in California. Gambling is still a sensitive political subject, which is why the European market remains so resolutely unreformed. The result is that most punters in Europe suffer poor odds and a shoddy service offered by in-

efficient, public-sector monopolies. They should be cheering on Ladbroke in its future contests in the European courts.

### A fair stage on the buses

THE old joke about Number 33s arriving in convoys has acquired a new ring since the Conservatives hit the road with the mass privatisation of bus services.

The sight of rival local bus services racing each other in town centres is such a free market dream that it was only a matter of time before it became the target of attack from Labour, even Tony Blair's new party. Brian Wilson, Blair's man on the buses, yesterday attacked Stagecoach, the largest of the new bus operators, with 11.5 per cent of the market and profits of £19 million on sales of £191 million in the year to the end of April. On the stockmarket profits are expected to grow after an acquisition drive which has taken the Scottish company up the country onto the fringe of

London routes.

Labour is attacking Stagecoach precisely for this reason. It claims that Stagecoach's deep pockets make it too easy for it to undercut smaller local rivals and drive them out of business. Labour believes the OFT has missed the bus on this one and wants the DTI to go round the route again.

Sir Gordon Borrie, a one time OFT leader, and someone who knows a thing or two about monopolies, says that large companies have been able to see off their competitors by predatory tactics, and claims the OFT's hands are tied. Labour have really got into a stew about fair fares all round.

Stagecoach, naturally, says Labour's claims are exaggerated and politically motivated. The OFT said yesterday that it had diligently stuck to the Competition Act and other legislation in its multifarious reports on Stagecoach.

In terms of pure size, Badgerline can keep up with Stagecoach. The public quote, gained in April 1993, gave Stagecoach a head start in access to capital over small rivals. They desperately need money to expand services, and make them attractive with new fleets of buses. Stagecoach does not need to resort to the skulduggery it stands accused of by Labour.

## Allied Domecq poised to sell beer and food firms

By MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE takeover of Allied Domecq, the worldwide drinks and food group formerly known as Allied-Lyons, is continuing apace, after this year's acquisition of control of Pedro Domecq, the Spanish drinks producer.

The announcement of two potential deals yesterday left the shares 13p higher, at 587p. Analysts approved further evidence of the group's intention to focus more sharply on its core drinks and retailing businesses.

Allied said it was in talks with Interbrew, a Belgian brewer, on the possible sale of

its brewing interests in The Netherlands. These comprise two breweries, one in Breda and one in Limburg. The operation was bought in the 1960s; a third brewery, in Rotterdam, was shut three years ago.

At the same time, Dalgety, the British food group, emerged as a potential buyer of DCA Food Industries, a substantial part of Allied's food interests. Analysts have put a price of as much as £800 million on the whole of Allied's food operations.

The Dutch brewing business, producing a million bar-

rels a year of brands such as Oranjeboom and Royal Dutch Posthorn, is somewhat out on a limb from the rest of Allied's beer interests, which for the past two years have been in a joint venture with Carlsberg, the Danish producer.

News of the possible disposal of the Dutch operation, with an agreement expected by the end of the year and at a price comfortably above £20 million, was taken by the market as increasing the likelihood of Allied leaving the joint venture with Carlsberg sooner rather than later.

The venture's launch coin-

cided with a slump in the British beer market and has proved a disappointment to Allied, though the company has never confirmed that it was interested in selling out.

Allied's strategy since the Domecq link has been to concentrate on spirits and on its retailing operations, which include 4,300 pubs in Britain, along with Dunkin' Donuts and the Baskin-Robbins ice cream chains.

In July, Michael Jackman, the chairman, said food interests, which include the remaining Lyons operations, would be sold.



Brian Williamson has begun to restore the payments balance

## Gerrard & National lifts interim payout

By PATRICIA TEHAN, BANKING CORRESPONDENT

GERRARD & National, the financial group, has increased its interim dividend for the first time since 1990, paying the payment 2p higher to 8p, in order to reduce the disparity between the half-way and final payments.

The discount house and stockbroker unveiled a 38 per cent rise in profits to £14.4 million for the first half to September. The dividend will be paid on December 15. Earnings per share were 15 per cent higher, at 16.8p.

By far the biggest contributor to profits was GNI Holdings, the derivatives broker and fund manager, whose profits soared 137.5 per cent to £10.6 million. Profits from

Gerrard Vivian Gray, the stockbroking arm, were 17 per cent higher at £1.6 million. LMA, the money-lending arm, enjoyed a 25.6 per cent profit increase, to £2.1 million.

The GNI and Gerrard Vivian Gray profits shown are for the six-month period to July 31, however, all Gerrard & National companies will have a year-end of March 31 this year.

Brian Williamson, the chairman, said the firm had increased its dividend every year for the past 25 years, but this had been achieved in recent years by increasing the final dividend.

Tempos, page 28

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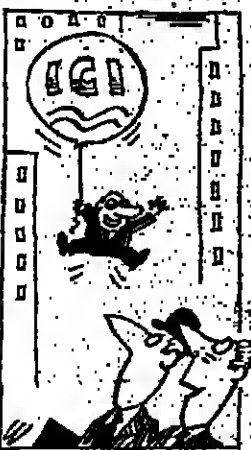
# THE TIMES CITY DIARY

## Eagle stays landed

A BEATING of drums and screeching of birds reverberated around Hyde Park Corner yesterday as South African Airways took the lid off its new secret weapon, a frequent flyer programme. For years, British Airways and SAA had the direct London-Johannesburg route all to themselves, and a profitable route it was too. But the number of carriers serving South Africa has increased to 50 in the four years since Nelson Mandela's release, and SAA has finally woken up. The programme, called Voyager, ties in with British Midland and American Airlines. Hacks were treated to an impressive audiovisual display, but plans to let an eagle loose in the Hotel Intercontinental were called off. "He doesn't travel well," an SAA spokesman squawked.

## Shades of Kiam

LORDS Howe and Tebbit together with Sir Michael Bishop, chairman of British Midland, and a host of other dignitaries swooped on the Intercontinental yesterday to speak at the Thomas Cook Business Forum — only to find that it no longer existed. American Express bought Thomas Cook's travel management organisation for \$375 million in September and changed the firm's name, Eric Brannan, Amer's senior vice-president, told delegates: "We had our spies in the audience last year and felt it would be better to buy the company than to organise our own forum." Shades of Victor Kiam...



"Yes — they've certainly done well"

## Trio takes off

CURIOUS goings-on at Credit Lyonnais Laing, which, it seems, has lost the team but kept the product. The trio who created CLL's "Value and Momentum" funds package, Richard Clarke, Helen Bond and Chris Chaitow, have departed for Flemings on the expiry of their three-year contract, but will not, CLL insists, be taking their work with them. The firm has been reminding clients that it owns the rights. Chris Clark is the new man in charge.

THE importance of references when taking people on for jobs might not be all it is made out to be. New evidence published yesterday at the Institute of Personnel and Development conference in Harrogate found that managers will sooner consult an astrologer or study a candidate's handwriting when it comes to selecting people for jobs.

## Lucky thirteen

JIM Furlong, the City headhunter, hopes to make it thirteenth time lucky this weekend. Not only has Furlong had three winners with his City racing syndicate this year, but he has clocked up nine other wins. The nag to watch, he tells me, is Toujour Riviera, which won at Ascot two weeks ago, was first at Newmarket last weekend, and is running in the £35,000 Ladbrokes Handicap at Newmarket tomorrow.

JON ASHWORTH

# How Labour could avoid trap set by the Treasury

Eprime Eshag suggests a response to the question "where is the money coming from?"

THE Labour Party has, in recent years, frequently proposed to relieve some of Britain's serious economic and social difficulties by increasing public spending on infrastructure, health, education, and welfare. These proposals are invariably countered by the Treasury with the question "where is the money coming from?" followed by the argument that, unless Labour raises taxes, its proposals will result in larger budget deficits, higher government borrowing and inflation.

Since the last general election, Labour has replied that the growth of income and employment generated by the rise in public expenditure will, by itself, contain the budget deficit.

The Treasury argument is clearly based on the familiar monetarist doctrine of the containment of the budget deficit in all phases of the economic cycle. Therefore, the more fact that Labour, instead of questioning that doctrine, decides to argue that its proposals will not result in a larger budget deficit amounts to tacit acceptance of it. The same compromise was made by the party at the last general election, when it proposed to finance higher public expenditure by raising taxes.

In asking "where is the money coming from?" the Treasury is, in effect, setting a trap, very similar to the trap set by the question "when did you stop beating your wife?" That Labour allows itself to be caught in this trap is probably explained by its futile policy of acquiring respectability in the City, the bastion of monetarism.

Be that as it may, this policy has enabled the Treasury to divert debate from the fundamental question of whether it is desirable to restrict the budget deficit in a recession, to the peripheral statistical question of the projected impact on the budget balance of a rise in public expenditure.

No wonder the electorate finds it hard to see much difference between the economic philosophy of the monetarist Labour Party and that of the monetarist Conservative Party.

Labour could defend its proposals far more convincingly if it were only prepared to abandon its policy of currying favour with the City and to place some faith in the intelligence and common sense of the electorate by questioning the desirability of containing the budget deficit in a period of widespread unemployment. This it can do by arguing, in common with the overwhelming majority of economists, that as long as the growth in income and expenditure, generated by the policy of raising public expenditure, is matched by a parallel increase in the flow of real goods and services, there need be no upward demand pressure on prices, even if the policy did not contain the budget deficit.

It follows from the above that the



Voters find it hard to see much difference between the policies of Gordon Brown, left, and Kenneth Clarke

only rational and meaningful question to ask advocates of raising public expenditure is: "Where is the additional supply of goods and services coming from?" and not "where is the money coming from?" The answer to the first question is "from the employment of idle labour and equipment resources which is certain to follow the rise in public expenditure during recessions".

It is also clear that the deeper the recession, the larger the volume of idle productive resources, the greater is not only the scope but also the need for raising public expenditure and generating demand for goods and services. To avoid a serious deterioration in the balance of payments, however, such expansionary fiscal policy should be implemented, either in concert with the other leading industrial countries suffering from mass unemployment, or on an international basis through such schemes as the one proposed by Jacques Delors for the European Community.

The only effect of a failure to contain the budget deficit will be an increase in government borrowing, resulting in a higher national debt and in the interest payments on it. Such growth in government borrowing would not discourage business investment, provided the authorities permit sufficient growth in the supply of money to prevent a significant rise in interest rates. On the contrary, private investment is likely to be stimulated by the growth in demand generated by public expenditure.

Nor would the rise in interest payments on national debt impose a burden on future generations, since the larger interest payments will be made out of higher national income brought about by the expansionary fiscal measures in periods of recession. Moreover, the growth in public expenditure on projects such as those mentioned above, and in business investment, will ensure that future generations will

enjoy better health, education, and training, will work with more efficient infrastructure and industrial plant and equipment, and will live in a less divided and disillusioned, as well as a less poverty- and crime-ridden society, than has been the case in recent years.

Of many historical examples that can be cited in support of these propositions, perhaps the most recent is the experience of the United States during Ronald Reagan's presidency (1981-89). Over that period, the Federal budget deficit and public-sector borrowing more than doubled; the public debt almost tripled; and the supply of money rose by more than 90 per cent. Nevertheless, the rate of inflation was almost halved and gross private investment rose by 30 per cent in real terms, compared with 12 per cent in the preceding eight years.

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# EC chief poised for night of the long knives

Wolfgang Münchau looks at how Jacques Santer's team may line up

JACQUES Santer, president-designate of the European Commission, will convene a "night of the long knives" in Luxembourg tomorrow to decide portfolio allocations.

Some of the nominations are foregone conclusions. The most open question will be what to do with Sir Leon Brittan, the Trade Commissioner, an assiduous power player. Sir Leon may be forced to give up responsibility for Eastern Europe, and hence the forthcoming membership negotiations.

The best that can be said about the new Commission is the generally high calibre of the nominees — Sir Leon and Neil Kinnock for Britain, Edith Cresson and Yves Thibault de Silguy for France, Mario Monti for Italy, Erkki Liikanen for Finland, among others.

Mr Santer's difficulty is that there are too many nominees and too few jobs. The number of commissioners will go up from 17 to 21 to take account of the four prospective new EU mem-

bers. The result is that portfolios have to be divided into ever smaller parts. Economic and monetary policy may be separated, as will agriculture and fisheries and research and future technologies, such as telecommunications.

On foreign affairs, the most important change is the replacement of the current division of "economic" (Sir Leon) and "political" (Hans van den Broek, a hapless Dutchman) with a geographical division into OECD, Eastern Europe, emerging markets, the Mediterranean and Latin America.

This move has the singular advantage of creating jobs, but it does not eliminate the fundamental problem of overlap, which bedeviled the uneasy relationship between Sir Leon and Mr van den Broek. Whatever happens tomorrow, the new Commission will be dogged by perpetual foreign policy turf battles.

This will provide a good opportunity for commissioners with more modest, though more discreetly defined jobs to increase their public profiles. One of them could be Mr Kinnock, who as Transport Commissioner

will be in a position where he can push for a number of popular policies, such as air traffic liberalisation, if he is so inclined. So too could Martin Bangemann, the senior German commissioner, who had prepared for retirement before he was unexpectedly reappointed by Chancellor Kohl.

Herr Bangemann is prepared to give up some of his industry portfolio to concentrate on future technologies. Karel van Miert, the amiable Competition Commissioner, will have an opportunity to deepen the one meaningful area of European competition policy, the fight against cartels.

The most important commission job over the next five years is the economics portfolio because it deals with the highly sensitive subject of Economic and Monetary Union (EMU). Under the Maastricht treaty, the Commission's job is to determine which countries fulfil the four economic convergence criteria. The treaty stipulates some objective criteria, but leaves enough political leeway for interpretation. If the Commission finds that a simple majority of EU countries to fulfil the criteria in 1996, and if EU finance ministers agree in a majority vote, the third stage of EMU could begin as early as January 1, 1997, a date preferred by no one but the French. As it happens, the front-runner for this job M de Silguy, currently European adviser to Edouard Balladur, the French Prime Minister. His appointment would promise continued tensions on the subject between France and Germany.

But since Germany is about to propose sweeping changes to the Maastricht treaty towards more federalism, Germany is in a relatively weak position to stop France's push for an early adoption of stage three.

From a British and German point of view, Professor Monti, who is opposed to a hasty move to stage three, would be a better choice.

In making his choice, Mr Santer may employ an amended version of an old NATO witicism. His aim will be to keep the Italians out, the French and Germans in, and the British down.

Foreign policy turf battles will dog new commission

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# Finding a tune best suited to the tough 1990s

Books that set out to teach you how to be a better manager are usually better left unopened. Not, perhaps, when the name on the cover is Sir John Harvey-Jones, star of the *Trouble-shooter* TV series, and a man who won many fans during his years as chairman of ICI.

Those who swear by the Harvey-Jones approach will enjoy his new book, *All Together Now*, which considers how to get the best out of people in the tough 1990s. He uses the metaphor of a concert — the manager is the conductor; the employees the musicians — and the idea is to draw individuals together into a harmonious whole.

There is, he argues, "a deeply rooted antipathy to training in the UK, both on the part of the managers and of those to be trained."

British companies, he says, rarely spend more than 1 or 2 per cent of their payroll budget on training and development, compared with between 10 and 20 per cent overseas. "We think... that putting a young person with someone experienced will automatically transfer knowledge and theory. We fail to realise that what happens is that the bad practices accumulated over the years get handed on and on and on."

Creating a team is, he says, like juggling, where all the balls must be kept in play if the task is to succeed. Different individuals pull in different directions; a considerable amount of "fuzz" is needed to allow them some freedom of movement. "If a man or woman is given a job to do, he or she will give of their best only if

they feel that they have the necessary space around them."

The idea of flexibility runs like a refrain through the book. "Businesses can only prosper when every man and woman in the business is growing and developing, and is therefore giving of his or her best."

Good management is about striking a balance. During his years as a submariner, Harvey-Jones was rarely praised and frequently criticised. In business, one often receives neither praise nor criticism. Individuals need to know whether they are performing or not.

The modern workplace demands new disciplines. Harvey-Jones joined ICI 38 years ago with the promise of a job for life. "There is not the remotest possibility that someone joining a company in the 1990s will be given such a comforting message."

The office, says Harvey-Jones, has become an increasingly lonely place. Everyone needs a mentor or coach, from the chairman down. Companies and employees need to be interdependent — a form of management that calls for "sensitivity, wisdom, openness of mind, ability to listen and to trust."

Managers need not be tyrants. As Harvey-Jones puts it: "A friend recently challenged my view that it was possible to manage people while still being a nice person. I replied that it had to be possible; it is not credible that only the selfish, insensitive, rash and brash can create and lead teams."

*All Together Now* is published by William Heinemann on November 7.



vive la difference!

## THE TIMES DILLONS FORUM Sir John Harvey-Jones

IN business, people are the most powerful resource we have, but still the most under-exploited. We underestimate their intelligence and their initiative and we fail to get the best out of them for business. So argues John Harvey-Jones, one of Britain's best-known and most admired businessmen, in his new book *All Together Now*.

John Harvey-Jones will put forward the blueprint for people-management that he believes could put the UK at the forefront of world business at this Times/Dillons Forum. The forum will take place in the Logan Hall, Institute of Education, 20 Bedford Way, London WC1 on Wednesday November 9 at 7.30 pm. John Harvey-Jones will be signing copies of his new book after the event.

Tickets to this event, priced at £10 (concessions £7.50), are available by calling Dillons on 071 915 6613 or by completing and posting the form below.

## THE TIMES THE DILLONS FORUM Sir John Harvey-Jones

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## Gilts and equities rally

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place ten business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

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1994 High Low Company	Price	Net Yld	P/E

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# Broadgate Properties assets top £1bn

By CARL MORTIMER

THE value of the assets of Broadgate Properties, the company that owns the prized Broadgate and Ludgate office complexes in the City of London, has risen above £1 billion. The company also announced a surge into the black in the year to June 30, with profits of £28.5 million, compared with a £72.5 million loss last year.

The boost to the value of Broadgate's assets helped to increase shareholder investment in the company from £148 million to £232 million, but the uplift may not be enough to satisfy lenders to Stanhope Properties, which owns a 50 per cent stake.

Broadgate Properties yesterday

day said the value of its fixed assets rose in the year by 11 per cent to just above £1 billion. During the year, the company let 295,000 sq ft of space and has let another 98,000 since the year-end. New tenants include JP Morgan and Hill Samuel, the merchant banks.

Stanhope owes its bankers, led by Barclays, more than £140 million and needs to repay or renegotiate the loans by December 19. The company's main asset is its share of Broadgate, which is now valued at £116 million, an investment covered by British Land, which owns a 29 per cent stake in Stanhope.

The new figures on the value of Broadgate show, however, that Stanhope's creditors could still be out of pocket, even if Broadgate fetched its full £1 billion value in a sale.

Stanhope said yesterday that restructuring talks were continuing with its bankers and other parties. "There isn't anything firm to announce," David Camp, a director, said.

Broadgate's rise into profit was mainly caused by the release of provisions made in previous years against developments. The figures included £25 million of writebacks and £4 million of property sale profits. Operating income fell from £67 million to £57 million, largely due to disposals, which have cut rents. Sales included 175 Bishopsgate, the EBRD headquarters, and 100 Ludgate Hill. These disposals brought in £199 million. Interest payable fell from £90 million to £62 million.

Excluding shareholder loans, Broadgate is financed with a £700 million facility, ringfenced from its shareholders. Potential investors in Broadgate, however, are unlikely to agree with the £1 billion tag. The rise in bond yields recently has made difficult the financing of a £1 billion investment that yields rental income of £55 million.

Tempus, page 28



Christine Bunce, left, commercial director, Mark Bunce, chief executive, and Tom Adam, chairman, yesterday

## Demand for cars fuels Daimler-Benz advance

By COLIN NARBROUGH, WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

SHARES in Daimler-Benz, Germany's industrial flagship, surged ahead of the market after better-than-expected third-quarter sales figures, which reflected strong demand for Mercedes cars.

In the first nine months, the cars-to-aerospace group increased sales by 9 per cent to more than DM73 billion: the Mercedes motor vehicles division was up 13 per cent. Car sales were up 13 per cent, at DM30.7 billion, with the C-class saloon the dominant force. In volume terms, car sales were 29 per cent up at 436,100 vehicles.

Daimler, which is undergoing severe restructuring to restore profitability, has been heavily criticised for failing to address its problems earlier. Gerhard Liener, the finance director, who came under particular fire, is to retire early and Edzard Reuter, the management board chairman, is believed to have abandoned his plans to switch to the chairmanship of the supervisory board next year.

A company statement yesterday said that, though the international automotive market was only gradually gaining momentum, Daimler expected to make progress in the fourth quarter and "annual sales in excess of DM100 billion for the first time".

Daimler highlighted the strength of Mercedes sales in Britain — they were up 46 per cent. The average increase for western Europe, excluding



Reuters plan changed

Germany, was 37 per cent. Mercedes sales overall were up 13 per cent, at DM51.2 billion.

Very low car sales in the first half of last year, ahead of the launch of the new C-class, were given as part of the explanation for the big year-on-year rise. But the company said demand for cars was so great that it had reached its capacity limits at some plants. Commercial vehicles' sales were up 12 per cent, at DM20.5 billion.

AEG, the group's electrical engineering division, which has just sold its domestic appliance arm to Electrolux, of Sweden, boosted sales by less than half a billion marks, to DM7.4 billion; Debits, the financial services division, overtook it with sales of DM7.9 billion.

Deutsche Aerospace was the only division to experience a fall in sales; they were 9 per cent down at DM10.5 billion, reflecting defence cuts and continued weakness in demand for civil aircraft.

## Country Casuals in red

COUNTRY Casuals, the women's clothing retailer and manufacturer, is maintaining its interim dividend, despite falling into the red in the first half (Susan Gilchrist writes).

The group made a pre-tax loss of £1.5 million in the six months to July 23, compared with a £17,000 profit in the corresponding period last year. Last month saw a profits warning and the abrupt departure of John Shannon, the chairman and chief executive.

Mark Bunce, the new chief executive, said the loss was caused by delays in rolling out the chain of Elvi stores, aimed at larger women, and a poor initial trading performance. Koto, the group's brand for younger women, was also partly to blame. However, Country Casuals continued to deliver solid results.

Trading in the crucial second half is more promising, with like-for-like sales at Country Casuals up by 7 per cent and a better performance from Elvi. The interim dividend is held at 1.41p and will be paid out on December 15.

Tempus, page 28

## Browning-Ferris reports sharp rise

BROWNING-FERRIS Industries, the American waste management group behind a \$364 million cash bid for Britain's Atwoods, reported a sharp rise in net income to \$82.3 million from \$53.1 million in the fourth quarter, on revenues of \$1.2 billion. Earnings were 42 cents a share, compared with 31 cents.

In the 12 months to September 30, net income before extraordinary charges rose to \$283.97 million (\$197.44 million) and earnings advanced to \$1.49 a share (\$1.15). William Ruckelshaus, chairman and chief executive officer, said a successful acquisition programme, improved commodity prices and an expanding economy contributed to the profits advance. There were 25 acquisitions in the fourth quarter.

## Flying Flowers blooms

FLYING Flowers more than trebled its pre-tax profits in the third quarter of the year to £267,000 (£83,000). For the first nine months, the company, which delivers flowers by post from its Jersey nurseries, more than doubled its profits to £856,000 from £395,000. Earnings per share for the nine months jumped from 1.91p to 3.47p. The company forecasts a successful Christmas period and says it has decided that it would be helpful to shareholders to make quarterly profits statements for at least its first two years as a public company. The shares were up 2p at 77p.

## Shiloh pegs dividend

SHILOH, the textiles and healthcare group, is holding its interim dividend at 1p after giving warning that higher raw material costs are eroding profit margins. Shiloh shares fell 13p to 145p. In the six months to October 1, the company lifted pre-tax profits to £622,000 from £490,000, on sales up to £14.6 million, from £13.38 million. Earnings were 7.14p a share, up from 5.75p. Richard Gartside, chairman, said buoyant demand had benefited textile spinning operations. He added that losses on packaging were being addressed "with some urgency".

## Scantronic stake sold

MENVER-SWAIN, the emergency lighting and alarms group, has changed with a 4.5 per cent stake in Scantronic and asked for financial information with a view to considering whether to bid for the company. This month, Scantronic, a supplier of electronic security equipment, raised £2.8 million in new shares and debt and said it would incur a £2.4 million half-year loss. In the summer, Scantronic stunned the City when it said it needed £1.6 million to stay in business. Menver-Swain has paid between 15.5p and 16.5p for its stake in Scantronic.

## HAYMILLS GROUP RESTRUCTURES FOR GROWTH

Shareholders of the privately owned Haymills construction and property investments group have approved a re-structuring package to accommodate expansion plans.

The new structure establishes a separate holding company for each of the Group's two current operating divisions: Haymills (Contractors) Ltd, and Haymills Property Investments Ltd. Formerly, both companies fell within the scope of a single holdings company: Haymills Holdings Ltd.

Haymills Group Chairman, John Woodhouse, said that the move was designed to create more flexibility for each of the main operations. "With the emergence of a more settled economic climate, it is necessary to make plans for the future destiny of the Group and its operating divisions," he said.

In spite of severe recession, during which many of Haymills's competitors have suffered damage or failure, Haymills have continued to deliver profit and maintain dividends. "This has been a laudable achievement and provides an excellent base from which our future development can be launched," said Mr Woodhouse.

"The Directors feel, that given the differing requirements in the building & civil engineering markets as against the property investment market, it is now an appropriate time to separate the two businesses formally so that each can set a new agenda for development and growth."

The position of all shareholders will be protected as shares in the new companies will mirror those held in the old holdings company. The construction group will have an asset value of £15.3 million whilst the property investments group will be worth £20 million.

## L&M losses reduced

LONDON & Metropolitan, the property company that was forced into a second financial restructuring last year, reduced pre-tax losses to £2.1 million from £3.4 million in the half-year to June 30 (Martin Barrow writes).

Losses eased to 4.7p a share from 5.6p. The company said the current financial position

still prevented the payment of a dividend.

Turnover from continuing operations was £1.6 million, reduced from £10.3 million, but operating losses deepened to £1.15 million from £450,000. However, this was more than offset by reduced interest charges of about £1 million, down from £3 million.

## Italian state sell-offs 'on track'

By OUR WORLD TRADE CORRESPONDENT

THE Italian privatisation programme is "alive and well" and a consistent set of asset sales will start next year, Vittorio Grilli, head of privatisation and debt management at the Italian Treasury Ministry, told a London seminar yesterday.

He said the sell-off of second tranches in the state-owned corporations INA and IMI would take place early next year, with the disposal of STET and ENEL to follow in the summer.

New regulations from July allowed for greater flexibility on privatisation methods and in choice of public offerings and private placings. The goal was to establish big public limited companies with core shareholders to give strategic stability, he said.

Atilio Ventura, chairman of the Italian Stock Exchange, said the modernisation of his country's stock exchange was almost complete and a derivatives market, initially offering a futures contract on the Milan stock index, would be launched on November 28.

With privatisations already boosting the size of the Italian equity market, Signor Ventura said that a second-tier market in small and medium-sized Italian companies was about to be set up, with some 5,000 such companies now ready to seek a listing.

On the wider economic front, Innocenzo Cipolletta, head of Confindustria, the Italian equivalent of the CBI, said Italy was experiencing a "virtuous circle of recovery driven by exports and investments more than by consumption".



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## POP page 35

Madonna changes gear on her new album, but she knows we've seen and heard it all before

## ARTS

## POP page 36

Caitlin Moran goes in search of the Founding Stones of the great Rock'n'Roll Palace



THEATRE: A Stratford premiere for one of Britain's leading dramatists; Ayckbourn meets Broadway in Scarborough

# History below the surface

Benedict Nightingale reviews the RSC's staging of a 'fascinating but flawed' new play by David Edgar

The other day I was in Thessaloniki, eating in a restaurant that had been a Byzantine church, was converted by Ottoman invaders into Turkish baths, and is now owned by descendants of the few Jews to have survived one of Hitler's most complete massacres. Beneath my feet there were doubtless Roman ruins, as there are all over the city and as there may well also be beneath the strange, fractured edifice in which David Edgar has set his fascinating if flawed new play. As he intimates, there are places where you feel that, if you push the ground too hard, you will end up knee-deep in marble, antique brick, torn skeletons and dried blood.

## Pentecost Other Place, Stratford

Deliberately, Edgar does not name the country where *Pentecost* occurs; but it is some way north of Thessaloniki and until recently under Soviet domination. It seems to be coping as badly with a market economy as it did with Communism. We have the word of a government minister, no less, that its industry is a junkyard and its currency confetti. And somewhere in its backwoods is a building that was successively a church, a mosque, an Orthodox church again, a Nazi jail, a Catholic church, a museum of atheism, a storehouse for potatoes — and may now be a 'key monument in the history of Western art'.

That is because there is evidence that the fresco hidden beneath the painting of a smiling worker predates Giotto by a century, yet brings the same sense of perspective to a similar study of the lamentation of the Virgin over the dead

Christ. Will the art books have to be rewritten, or is the thing a copy? And should it be left where it was found, or given pride of place in the national museum? Those are the questions — entertainingly debated by two academics, Charles Kay's primly English Davenport and Linal Haft's brassy American Katz, with contributions from two priests, a neo-Fascist, and Glenn Huggill's laid-back Minister of Culture. But aren't those questions a bit lacking in urgency for a

heavyweight dramatist with (vide his *Shape of the Table*) a special interest in the fate of Eastern Europe? Well, they have

their obvious ramifications. Indeed, the play, sometimes seems likely to turn into a neo-Shavian argy-bargy, asking what's meant by culture, nationhood, West, East and other grand concepts. It is not until the second half that Edgar transforms those ideas into living, suffering people and brings them pell-mell onto Robert Jones's set.

History has not stopped. The church is about to be converted again, this time into a battle-site. On the face of it, this is preposterous. It is highly improbable that terrorists should appear from nowhere, and even odder that they should be a cross-section of the world's refugees. It is still barmier that they should think that by taking art experts hostage they can blackmail their way to respectable lives in Germany or the United States.

But do we protest when Shaw brings a band of brigands into *Man and Superman* who turn out to be social philosophers? Though Mich-

ael Attenborough's otherwise admirable direction fails to make it clear, we are no longer in a realistic play when Edgar's fighters chat, sing, and evoke the atrocities that have sent them into exile. What we are watching is a demonstration — less lucid, admittedly, than Shaw would have made it — of the tribal mess and muddle that is our world now. But not merely a mess and muddle. I find it hard to believe, with Edgar, that a 12th-century Arab could be inspired by Islam to paint a proto-Renaissance fresco radiating Christian resignation. But I like the idea that human diversity and the complexities of history have their up as well as their down sides. That is surely why the play is called *Pentecost*. The disciples may have babbled away in different tongues, but they had rather a lot in common too.



Charles Kay, Linal Haft and Jan Ravens debate the merits of a discovery that may or may not cause the history of Western art to be rewritten in David Edgar's new *Pentecost*

## Cheers to a better life in America

Presumably there is a small British seaside resort, caught in time, bringing the traffic to a halt in Manhattan. Certainly, the Lower East Side has been transported to Scarborough. The Stephen Joseph Theatre is now the prewar equivalent of *Cheers* — a joint on Canal Street — for Alan Ayckbourn's polished, strongly cast production of Herb Gardner's 1992 Broadway hit, a wisecracking thought-provoking play about fathers and sons, aggro and anti-Semitism.

A circular carved wooden bar fills the stage, complete with embossed metal till. Some of the audience are tucked into booths (designer, Jan Bee Brown). The regulars

are getting eccentrically soured, including touts, white-bearded Bill Bailey (Yankee Nick) who thinks he is Santa Claus. There's a juke box in the corner and a moosehead on the wall. It's Independence Day, 1936 (then 1944), and the landlord has made the place look like a museum of Americana.

But Eddie Ross, half intolerable, half heroic (excellent Broadway original Judd Hirsch), almost huggable yet so pugnacious people duck away or learn to fight back, was born a Goldberg. He is a Russian Jewish émigré, even if he is obsessively eradicating his own history, apparently ignoring his lodger, a proudly Jewish actor, who searches out

## Conversations with My Father Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough

the tiny articles in the New York Times about the Holocaust (dignified, angered Trevor Martin).

Eddie's wife (Jane Bertish capturing hardened isolationism and uncrowned zest) is selectively deaf to her husband, persisting in singing in her native language to their second son. Baby Charlie is late finding his voice in spite of — or because of — Eddie's hilariously abrasive efforts to

get him to repeat after him, gesticulating testily at an unresponsive pram.

Meanwhile, Father Christmas is downing shots with old Hannah Di Blindeg (blind Madeline Blakeney) who fled the pogroms, the persecution that explains Eddie's Americanisation as cover. When Jimmy Scalso (moustachioed John Guerrasio like the Hitler of Little Italy), scary and absurd in his cherry suit, tries to extort protection money with racist bullying, Eddie reasserts his identity by playing "holering Hebes" on the Wurlitzer.

In 1976, adult Charlie (Michael Mears) has made a million writing about his father. Eddie had always discouraged Charlie's literary

tendencies while encouraging his boxer-brother, who died sticking to his guns under Nazi fire. Now Charlie finds himself trying to get rid of his family legacy in turn. Yet haunted by the past, he watches it replayed, sometimes acting as translator of pithy Yiddish phrases.

These apart, the play might do without this frame. Charlie gets nostalgically schmaltzy. The second half goes slack, but the first switches tightly between the farcical and the frightening, and the play, combining a screwball soap with Jewish theatre, takes a timely politicised look at anti-Semitism in our century.

KATE BASSETT

MUSIC: Hilary Finch talks to a conductor determined to discover the real Beethoven

## Authentic inspiration

A quiet autumn morning at Nikolaus Harnoncourt's London flat, before the afternoon's rehearsal, unshaven, and in carpet slippers, the conductor is working with his violinist wife, Alice, painstakingly correcting inaccuracies in a score of Schumann's Violin Concerto.

Five minutes with Harnoncourt teaches you the true meaning of authenticity. As it happened, we never actually used the word — though it was difficult to resist for one brought up on the recordings he made in the 1950s and 1960s, with his Vienna *Concentus Musicus*, pioneer-

ing period-instrument performance of Bach and Handel. The pigeonholing was inevitable. But no one would now expect this cycle to be necessarily period-instrument. Beethoven's authentic voice. But the Philharmonia, with the accession of layer upon layer of ideas and habits from their long tradition of working with some of the most revered Beethoven conductors? Could be leap and dance where angels fear to tread?

He chose the COE for their open ears and supple minds.

Beethoven was not their repertory: they hadn't played it before and were a blank, receptive page for the working out of Harnoncourt's long and continuing search for Beethoven's authentic voice. But the Philharmonia, with the accession of layer upon layer of ideas and habits from their long tradition of working with some of the most revered Beethoven conductors? Could be leap and dance where angels fear to tread?

What matters to Harnoncourt is to understand why Beethoven has written something in such a way, and not differently. One of his abiding fascinations is with Beethoven's language and his knowledge of rhetoric. "Beethoven said no one could be a composer if he's not a master of the rules of rhetoric. We so often think of Beethoven as the first to leave the rules of the 18th century and make his own. But not He was the last composer to follow those rules. This is very important for the musicians to understand — or else no one in the audience will. No one knows any longer the order and form of an 18th-



Harnoncourt: asking why Beethoven wrote as he did

century funeral oration. But when Beethoven wrote the funeral march of the "Eroica", he followed an exact rhetorical form.

"This rhetoric could, of course, be highly political, too. In the Fifth Symphony he combines rhetoric with agitation. And to bring out its danger, Beethoven added new instruments, never used in symphonic writing before: trombones, double-bassoons, piccolos. These are outdoor instruments — and he used them not to enrich the instrumentation, but to bring a new spirit into the symphony." This leads us to a discussion of whether Beethoven's music really does have extra-musical meaning. "I think that throughout the 18th century, music, like architecture and painting, was regarded as a language. But the question is, does the composer want to tell a story, or is it important for him to be inspired by a story? It is reliably reported that before Haydn wrote a sym-

phony, he would always make up his own story, using it as a source of inspiration, then throw it away.

"And Beethoven followed very exactly special chapters from his own library. For our time, it would be very helpful to know these sources, because we're now playing music in a different way as it was played later, when it was not speaking any more but painting. Not, of course, spelled out in a programme note — I'd be very afraid of that. But if the musicians are interested, I tell them as much as I see. If I feel they're not really interested, I wouldn't even do that."

And the audience? How can our responses keep pace with and do justice to the vast compendium of knowledge and reference from the conversation-books of Beethoven, from contemporary literature, from the analyses and performances of the music of his predecessors which go together to make up a Harnoncourt performance?

"I want the listener who goes to all the concerts — who'll take his bearings and make his connections from one symphony to another — having in mind, too, other performances he has already heard. To try to understand what, for Beethoven, art should be. Beethoven found the answer in his *Prometheus* ballet music. It was to be a reference for his whole life. He believed that art is the only thing which distinguishes humans from animals. Everything which is important for humanity comes from the divine kiss of the muses. It comes from God."

● Nikolaus Harnoncourt's Beethoven cycle with the Philharmonia opens tomorrow at the Festival Hall (071-428 8800) with Symphonies Nos 1 and 3. The cycle continues in London and at Symphony Hall, Birmingham (021-212 3333) until November 13

"Albert Finney in truly masterful form... Scacchi is excellent." Barry Norman - Film '94

"Mike Figgis' powerful direction and the dignity of Finney's performance make this a moving film."

G.Q. Magazine

ALBERT FINNEY GRETA SCACCHI MATTHEW MODINE

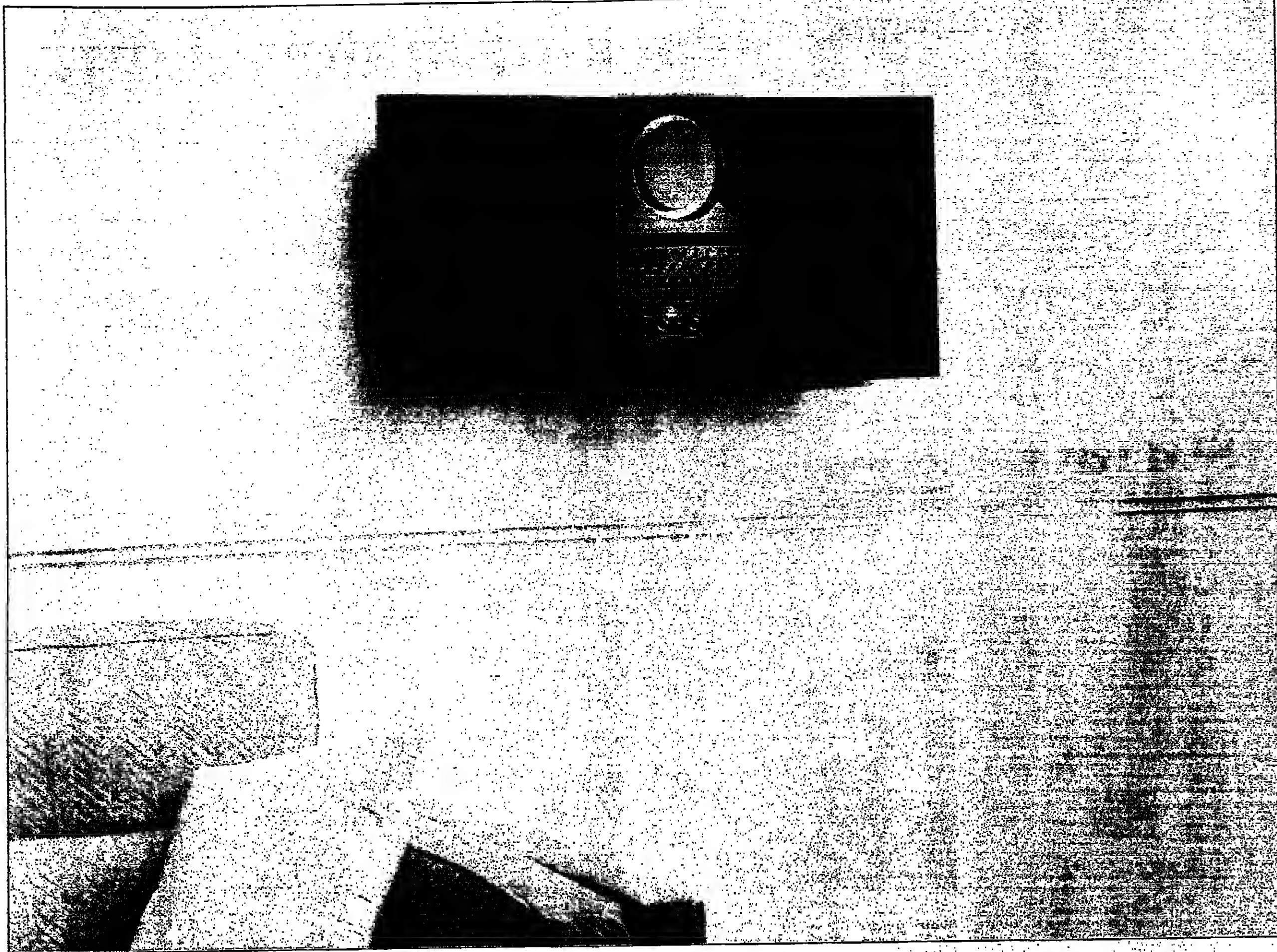


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## LONDON

**ROMEO ET JULIETTE:** Charles Macdonald's opera, performed here for the first time since the 1930s. Nicolas Jolly directs, with Roberto Alagna and Luciana Vasquez as the lead roles. Royal Opera House, Covent Garden, WC2 (071-304 4000). Tonight, 7pm. £

**THREE TALL WOMEN:** First night of previews for Maggie Smith, Frances de la Tour and Annette Bly as the women who haunted the childhood of Edward Albee. He Pulitzer Prize-winning play, directed by Anthony Page. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-304 4000). From tonight, 8pm. Open Nov 15, 7pm.

**A CARAVAN OF ANIMALS:** An afternoon concert for the young or young at heart, tomorrow's programme features a menagerie of music on the theme of animals, from dinosaurs to jellyfish. St. Paul's Cathedral, St. Paul's Churchyard, London EC4A 3DF. Sat, 2pm. £

**A WEEKEND AT THE WIMBORNE:** Richard Tognotti directs and is the solo violinist for tonight's programme of Haydn, Mozart, Southgate and the popular Chamber for English Chamber Orchestra. Amanda Proctor's recital tomorrow is sold out but on Sunday Julian Joseph, Frederick Haddad and Alec Darnley return for more of Joseph's acclaimed jazz series. Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (071-235 2141). Tonight, 7.30pm; Sun, 7pm. £

**DESIGN FOR LIVING:** Clio Owen, Paul Rive and Rachel Weiss in Clio Owen's defence of the mid-century modern. A lot of fun though Sean Mathias rumples the casually where covered only in red. Oversee Warehouse, Earlsfort Street, WC2 (071-369 1732). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7pm. £

**THE DEBILS:** Debutante. Christopher Mowbray's excellent staging of Shaw's study of honour, wit and hypocrisy, in the American War of Independence. Staring performances from, among others, Richard Brome, Paul Jackson, Daniel Moseley, Michael (Chavez), South Bank, SE1 (071-304 4000). Tonight, 7.30pm; Sun, 7pm. £

**MOSCOW STATIONS:** Tom Courtenay's one-man performance as an alcoholic lost on the Moscow Underground. You probably won't see him, more touching acting this year. Riverside, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5055). Mon-Sat, 8pm

**NEVILLE'S LIVES:** Tony Statton heads a strong cast playing a quartet of Neave's dramatic lives. The play is a look during a team-building exercise in Loughlin. Jeremy Sams directs Tim Firth's award play. Cuckoo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2.30pm and 8.30pm.

**ON APPROVAL:** Peter Hall gives us a sophisticated, diverting but relatively serious piece. Martin Jarvis is in brilliant form, with Anna Corio, Louise Lillard and Simon Ward. Playhouse, Northumberland Ave, WC2 (071-494 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2.30pm and 8.30pm.

**ONCE ON THIS ISLAND:** Splendidly executed production of the Broadway musical, showing and

## WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

## ELSEWHERE

**GLASGOW:** Nona Epstein's line production of Puccini's *Madama Butterfly* is revived tonight for Scottish Opera. Sir Alexander Gibson conducts. Anne Williams-King sings Cio-Cio San and Sergio Franchini in Pinkerton. Theatre Royal, Hope Street (041-332 9000). Tonight, 7.15pm. £

**LIVERPOOL:** A fascinating exhibit that leads into introduction opera today. Face to Face: Three Centuries of Artistic Self-Portraiture is a collection of 45 paintings, 11 drawings and etchings and one sculpture, all from 1700 to 1900. Walker Art Gallery, (051-207 0001). Mon-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, noon-5pm. Until Jan 6. £

**MANCHESTER:** Derek Deane presents a new production of the over-popular *Camille* for English National Ballet this week. The action transfers from a medieval Rhineland village to a Soviet hotel in the 1920s, with the heroine transformed from a simple peasant girl to a chambermaid. Susan Jeffe dances the title role tonight. Live Pavane takes over tomorrow and Tuesday.

## THEATRE GUIDE

**Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London**

**House full, prices only**  
 Seats at all prices

**Caribbean folk-protest** to be a successful marriage, terrific island sets. *Island* (formerly *The Ragged Dicks*). Theatre Royal, Hope Street, SE1 (071-494 5055). Mon-Fri 8pm; Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2.30pm and 8.30pm.

**THE PRINCE OF MISS JEAN BRODIE:** Patricia Hodge plays the inspirational but dangerous schoolteacher in a revival of an old favourite. Alan Strachan directs. Riverside, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5055). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

**THE SISTERS ROSENCRANCE:** Greenwich Theatre's production of Wendy Wasserstein's two play is a look during a team-building exercise in Loughlin. Jeremy Sams directs Tim Firth's award play. Cuckoo, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-494 5070). Mon-Fri, 7.30pm; Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2.30pm and 8.30pm.

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## CINEMA GUIDE

**Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated) with the synopsis**

**THE CLIENT (15):** Mediocore version of John Grisham's thriller about a boy in jeopardy, with Sean Bean. *Client* (071-494 5055). Mon-Fri 8pm; Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2.30pm and 8.30pm.

**THE PRINCE OF MISS JEAN BRODIE:** Patricia Hodge plays the inspirational but dangerous schoolteacher in a revival of an old favourite. Alan Strachan directs. Riverside, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-494 5055). Mon-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2.30pm.

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Three steps to rock'n'roll heaven: (clockwise from left) the cool of Janis Joplin, the instant street cred of a Ford Transit, the delights of fast food

## How to brew a rock'n'roll stew

Pop idols are made, not born — and this is what they are made of. Put the ingredients (except No 5) on your shopping list now!

Some people have it that John Lee Hooker was one. Others would argue it was harmonica. Still others would drag out a soapbox, stand on it and insist, "It was drugs," in high and very irritating voices. My father thought it was himself.

Opinions are, as may be seen, divided as to what the Founding Stones of the great Rock'n'Roll Palace are: which inventions, moments and people have made rock the gorgeous, bloody-nosed, snorting beast it is today. Judging by the state of the charts, with Take That permanently at No.1, it would appear we could quite safely put nutmeg-less trousers on the list as well. But is there any way we will ever know the full, true list of Founding Stones?

Yes. Here it is:

1) Fast-food joints the world over, with particular mention for the Burger King in Camden High Street. The kids have, from time immemorial, wanted to hang with the gang, cruise the mean streets of Telford, and drop by some liquor-serving establishment to maybe shoot a little pool, relax, and drink pints with whisky chasers. Unfortunately, pub and bar owners do not want gaggles of specs little kids with barely a pubic hair between them cluttering up the lounge bar and getting throwing-up drunk on half a shandy, and tend to enforce this decision with laws, bouncers and large dogs. So the kids hang out at fast-food joints and all-night service stations, sharing one drink between them and plotting how to take over the world. This usually includes forming a band. In fact, the only bands not formed like

this were The Smiths, who were all vegetarian, and Pink Floyd, who had rich parents and could afford to take each other out to dinner on Mummys's gold AmEx.

The Burger King on Camden High Street, by the way, has a jukebox stocked with Manic Street Preachers, "Eight Miles High" by the Byrds, and old wire singles. And a smoking section. Very encouraging.

2) Kindly uncles. Whenever pop biographies are written, Chapter Two, after all the guf about how young Billy/Hooligan/MC Cool Dude's parents were dispossessed Russian nobility, always focuses on a kindly Uncle, who teaches the young pop star how to play the spoons, has an old accordion on which he plays interminable sea-shanties, and buys the future star his/her first guitar before dying at about the time our hero gets his/her first lover. Kindly Uncles are the raw material from which the Rolling Stones, Nirvana and David Bowie sprang. NB: Kindly Uncles can come in a variety of guises — for instance, John Lennon's mother, Julia, was a kindly Uncle.

3) White Ford Transit vans, usually with the paint scraped off one side due

to some creative driving, and the words "Clean Me" written, rather sadly, in the dirt on the back window. The ownership of one of these by a family member means that the forming of a band is compulsory. Conversations tend to go: "We could tour in the van, and sleep in it to save hotel bills; there's plenty of room!"

What follows is four weeks of cramped, sweaty, drunken hell, with violent map-reading arguments. Vomiting Out of the Window games and enough misery to inspire a whole album of homesick, loveless songs. "Gimme Shelter" was about touring in a Transit van, probably.

4) Acne and/or chickenpox scars. To cover these, pubescent rock stars grow long, straggly, anti-establishment hair and shock all decent people by the way it touches the tops of their collars. The Beatles had very bad acne. Probably, I'm only guessing.

5) Drugs. Yes, all right.

6) Janis Joplin. She rocked like a telegraph pole in a hurricane, she was 20 times harder and cooler than any punk. Punk was invented because boys felt shown up by her, and tried to go one better, but a lot of punk was rubbish, whereas Janis was always

cool. Even when puking her guts up and dying from a heroin overdose.

7) The invention of the electric guitar. Too obvious to be mentioned, really; but there's always someone who writes in and means about these things.

8) Thunderbird Red/Blue. If you look very, very carefully on the shelves of a high-class liquor store, you won't find Thunderbird. This is because Thunderbird is only available from strange, out-of-the-way off-licences, usually situated by a roundabout on the flyover out of town. Thunderbird is the Devil's Drink — three shots and you start looking for tables to dance on; six shots and you accuse your grandmother of spilling your pint/looking at your bird; and after her the chance to sort it out outside, now, man to gran.

All hands play their first gig out of their minds on Thunderbird. This is why the lead singer believes he can dance, and the bass player thinks it's a good idea to start duck-walking across the stage. During the love-song.

9) The Devil. Rock'n'roll is apparently his music, and he writes all the best tunes. Hey, thanks for the American Music Club album, Satan!

10) Mothers. All rock'n'roll is done to prove someone's mother wrong. The scene, 1964. America. "You spend all day lying around, talking to your friends on my phone, going out and getting drunk with them, coming home at 10. I don't know what time, and moaning about your guitar. When are you going to get a proper job?"

"Hey, mom, chill. I'm the Lizard King. I'm going to go upstairs now and write 'The End'. Then you'll be sorry."

Twas ever thus.



CAITLIN MORAN

## The dream-makers return

embellished by ethereal 1960s-style siren voices and some floating strands of violin. The connection between the album and "The Time Has Come" is no coincidence. Common to both records is Howie B, one-time film soundtrack mixer for Nicolas Roeg and collaborator with

Nellee Hooper (of Soul II Soul and Björk success). Other carry-over members of Skylab are Mai Ducasse, owner of the original Skylab recording studio, plus Kudo and Toshi of Love TKO. The latter pair were once part of Melon, a flawed but interesting mid-1980s

twangy group, which adds extra spookiness to "Next" and warps the Shadows out of shape on "Deport".

Although this is manifestly a studio album, Skylab create an atmosphere of campfire jamming by using acoustic instruments alongside the electronics and a rough-and-ready approach to composing and recording. How many more remarkable albums can be released before the end of the year?

DAVID TOOP

## ART GALLERIES

**MICHAEL PAGNON GALLERY,** 14, Abchurch Lane, EC4A 3DF. (071-255 8144). Royal Academy of Art, Piccadilly, W1 (071-494 5055). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 12pm-5pm. £

**THE PAINTED PAGES** by Ian Ridd, 14, Abchurch Lane, EC4A 3DF. (071-255 8144). Mon-Fri 10am-6pm; Sat 10am-5pm; Sun 12pm-5pm. £

## CLASSICAL CONCERTS

**ROYAL ALBERT HALL, 071-255 8144.** **AROUND THE WORLD:** A SPECTACULAR CHARITY GALA CONCERT OF MUSIC FROM UNALLOTTED TO LLOYD WENSTER. ROYAL ALBERT HALL, 071-255 8144. Fri 11 Nov 8pm. £

## CABARET

**THE GREEN ROOM** at the Cafe Royal, London. A night of cabaret with a twist. 18 Oct - 19 Nov. 8pm. £

**THE GREEN ROOM** at the Cafe Royal, London. A night of cabaret with a twist. 18 Oct - 19 Nov. 8pm. £

## CIRCUSES

**BILLY SMARTS,** Richmond. Now open. One day London venue. Cabaret with a twist. 18 Oct - 19 Nov. 8pm. £

## OPERA &amp; BALLET

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## INFOTECH

## A village for the future

Paul Penrose on KCS, an ambitious social engineering experiment using telecommunications technology

Kington, nestling snugly in the hills of Herefordshire, is an unlikely model for the future. With its family-friendly, high street and a village of family-run shops, this small market town of 1,500 people appears much like any other tranquil backwater.

It is only upon arriving at No 2, the high street, with its prominent window display, that the unusual nature of the first inkling that all is not what it might seem in Kington.

Among those posing for the photographic display are local curate, Graham Sykes, preparing his weekly sermon on an electronic notepad; Richard Hammond, also using an electronic notepad to compile on-the-spot livestock records; optician Chris Coates, using a portable computer to update patient records between his three rural surgeries; and the local bobby, PC Moss, pictured tuning in to an electronic crime desk linked to neighbourhood schools.

No 2 the High Street is the headquarters of the Kington Connected Community Company — or KCS — the nerve centre of a benevolent experiment in social engineering pioneered by Apple Computers, BT, the Department of Trade and Industry and the Rural Development Commission (RDC).

The thinking behind the initiative was to see how new technology could be used to breathe life into declining rural economies. Kington, selected from 12 competing villages, became the overnight beneficiary of £450,000 worth of free hardware, software, telephone and associated support services.

Apple had already sponsored a similar scheme in the small American town of Jack-

sonville, Oregon, in 1990 with some success. But the British project was more ambitious, using the very latest in telecommunications technology to tie all the equipment together in a "surviving" connected community. Local residents were to decide how the kit was used and a technical support manager was to implement their ideas.

That was a year ago. Today, Kington is still struggling to come to terms with its inheri-



Chris Coates, optician, updates patient records

tance. The community spirit which helped launch the initiative has been replaced by a weary scepticism.

The telecentre in the high street, the public face of the project, has the air of a body under siege. The project partners, despite their obvious good intentions, have appeared aloof and distant. A number of schemes at the heart of the Kington bid failed to get off the ground.

A new business plan, drawn up by an external consultancy to give the project a sense of direction, has drawn fire for emphasising a commercial imperative and ignoring the social remit far from connecting the community, KCS has driven it apart.

"The four partners should have been clearer in their minds as to exactly how the project was going to be managed, rather than dumping the kit and then leaving the community to get on with it," says one observer who was involved at the inception of the scheme. "It's not possible to do that in a community because there are always disparate viewpoints and interests. Ultimately, it never won the confidence of the people on the ground."

The RDC's decision, six months in, to commission a fresh business plan reflected a growing concern that the project was floundering. Commitment to the plan, which envisages KCS becoming self-financing after three years, guaranteed renewed funding, but it further split the community. The arrival in Kington of besuited consultants has angered those who believe that the original ideal of creating a community-led resource has been spurned.

Dominic Bourton is the new manager of the high-street telecentre, recruited after the business plan was approved by the KCS board. He argues that it was unrealistic to assume that Kington would instantly be transformed into the 21st-century village. "I'm sure there are people around who feel alienated as it's not what they wanted or not what they expected. But, I think on average, we have made a difference locally."

He points to projects which have drawn in the community, such as the popular "family time" on Saturday mornings, when parents and children can come in and try out the computers, and the development of a series of bulletin boards and electronic mail conferencing schemes, providing confidential advice lines



Graham Sykes, curate, prepares his weekly sermon on an electronic notepad

and an information-swapping forum for clubs.

The crime desk is another KCS initiative, providing computerised links between local schools and the Leominster police, for the exchange of confidential information on bullying, drugs, stolen bikes and other issues.

On the commercial front, the company is working with a tourism consortium to develop a push-button tourist informa-

tion point for the area; if successful the service may be exported nationwide. The company is also in the pilot stages of a project to bring an automated job centre to town. A modern link with the Herefordshire job centre will be used to download the latest vacancies, allowing local job seekers to view new opportunities as they arise, and save on transportation costs. "The company has only

been going a year, in the middle of rural nowhere, and to expect it to please every sector of the community in that time is a little unreal. The kit looks fantastic, but kit on its own is not a magic wand," says Mr Bourton.

"Within a year we have achieved a lot, but before people pass judgment on whether or not it's been a good idea, they should give us a bit more time."

## Invest now, repent later

It is early days on the information highway, warns a new report

Plans by BT for a video-on-demand service are a "sure loser" according to a report published this week by Inteco, a research consultancy.

If the research is borne out, BT will have a nasty surprise in store for the service which plans to offer customers the ability to choose from hundreds of films and other programmes sent over an ordinary telephone line that is connected to a television set.

"The technology is unproven and BT is adopting a revolutionary rather than evolutionary approach," says Miles Thistlewaite, joint project manager for the study, which is based on interviews with 11,000 people in Britain, France, Germany and Italy.

It looks as how interested we are likely to be in superhighway and multimedia services such as video on demand, home shopping, online information services and other "interactive" products.

Commissioned on behalf of more than 30 companies, including PC manufacturers, telecom operators, cable companies and high-street retailers, the study warns that in Europe, at least, the much-touted information superhighway, will not take hold until the next century.

"Organisations pumping millions into the infrastructure to support the information highway — notably the telephone and cable companies — are likely to lose a lot of money in the short term," the study says.

Mr Thistlewaite draws a parallel with the railway boom of the last century when lots of companies rushed headlong into investing and into bankruptcy. "There were some big winners among the early railway entrants, but it took many years before big money was made."

While predicting a rosy future for PCs, where Inteco predicts half of all British households will own one within six years, the study confirms what most people have already concluded — that games consoles are on the way out. Prospects are poor, it says, for dedicated multimedia "players" such as CD-I and SDO while those for the PC-based CD-ROM are extremely good. Multimedia players are really "for households that

cannot afford a PC," says Mr Thistlewaite. "But we believe that, with prices falling, PCs will get into a surprising number of homes, especially where there are children."

The study identifies those wanting films, sports and to study seriously as the best potential buyers for multimedia services. Other applications such as video on demand, online information services and home shopping interest consumers, but are unlikely to prompt people into subscribing.

Unlike televisions and telephones, multimedia products and services are not heading for all households. "Markets will saturate relatively quickly —



some markets as low as 8 per cent penetration — which means that timing of market entry will be critical," Mr Thistlewaite says.

And, it predicts, the PC rather than the television set will be the focus for most multimedia services. "The clear message of the research is that people will be most ready to pay for services centred on the PC."

But before PC manufacturers start celebrating too much, Mr Thistlewaite also notes that the industry's emphasis on making multimedia PCs easy to use may have been overdone.

"It is demand, rather than ease of use, that is the critical factor," he argues. "Potential users are already PC literate and will adapt to new equipment. Technofear is a thing of the past."

MATTHEW MAY

● Multimedia in the Home is published by Inteco, based in Woking, Surrey. It is available in modules looking at different multimedia applications or individual countries. Prices range from £5,000 to £25,000 for the full study.

## Japanese industry exposed

JAPANESE industry is dangerously over-exposed to eavesdroppers picking up radio waves from personal computer networks and decoding them, according to a government report that has raised fears for the security of sensitive information.

A report by the Japanese Ministry of Posts and Telecommunications — leaked to the *Nihon Keizai Shimbun* newspaper, which published details this week — said radio waves emitted by personal computer networks, and even printers, posed a security risk. The fear is that spies, industrial or military, could intercept and decode them. Defence forces in the United States and Western Europe have developed some answers and are searching for better ones.

But Japan's low-profile military is not prepared to lead a national security effort, raising fears that Japanese industry could be left exposed.

American and European military research indicates that it is often possible to intercept and analyse waves up to 100 yards away from a computer. Ways of alleviating the risk can be expensive, the report said, adding that computers could be put in an insulated room or fitted with scrambling devices so they could not be understood.

## Who will help if your PC packs up?

Many computer users are still left high and dry. Sean Hallahan looks at moves to repair the situation



Steve Greenwood: the typical Soho maintenance man

Getting a PC in the home repaired is largely a matter of sticking a pin in the *Yellow Pages* directory and hoping to find someone reliable. The growth of what the computer industry describes as Soho computers used in small offices or at home — has meant that an increasing number of PC users are isolated if their systems go wrong.

Some of the more reputable manufacturers provide a three-year warranty on machines; and inevitably it is the older machines that begin to fail. But for the layman, even a minor failure can be a nightmare. The most common problems, according to Steve Greenwood, proprietor of Direct Computer Maintenance, based in Radlett, Hertfordshire, are with hard discs and monitors.

"The majority of calls I get are from people saying my hard disc will not boot up, my monitor is dead or I cannot get my printer to work under Windows," he says.

The growth of the PC mail-order business has also led to a new range of problems. "Quite often a mail-order computer will arrive on a doorstep in three large boxes with full multimedia features, and the customer is left to set it up," Mr Greenwood says. "In one case the customer had no idea the system correctly but still could not get it running and there was no card in the boxes telling her where she could get assistance."

Technical support from the mail-order companies is getting better, but the absence of simple instructions or telephone helpline numbers is still all too common. The result is the extra expense of calling out an independent repair company.

Mr Greenwood's advice to users looking for outside help is to make sure they know what they are buying. "The customer should ask what the call-out rate is and exactly what that covers. He should also ask for a plan of action and time scales for how and when a problem should be fixed."

Mr Greenwood's call-out

rate is £35 for the first half hour. If the problem cannot be fixed on the premises he will take the system back to his workshop for repair. "I am the typical Soho maintenance man," he says. "I am willing to go to a home after working hours when both partners are home and look at the machine."

Alan Jay, the editor of the PC User Group's monthly magazine, says that finding a good maintenance service is difficult. "The problem with *Yellow Pages* is that it is very difficult to tell a good maintenance company from a bad one," he says. The PC User Group, whose 10,000 mem-

bers pay £40 a year, has its own support service which members can ring and get advice on how to fix problems. But the organisation stops short of formally recommending maintenance companies. "In London we tend to know a lot of people and can often give unofficial advice but once you go further afield it becomes more difficult," Mr Jay says.

"For a lot of our members the majority of the problems are fairly simple ones, the most common being a hard disc failure," he says. "But a lot of people do not have a set-up program — the piece of software that allows a user to set the parameters for the system in use. We have managed to get hold of a shareware set-up program that we will send out to members for £6."

The larger PC manufacturers are well aware that the number of support calls they have received have increased over the last two years as the PCs' attractiveness to small firms and people at home has grown.

Compaq, one of the largest suppliers in Britain, set up a customer-care service a year ago, to answer queries and advise customers on where to get their machines repaired — it directs them to one of the five maintenance companies it uses.

Mr Jay advises that not all systems are worth repairing. "If you have a problem that is going to cost £300 or more to fix then you could already be a

third or more of the way to the cost of a new machine, and it may be worth replacing the old one with a new, more powerful model."

The problem is that the inexperienced user will not know what the cost is until he has an expert to check it out — and that means finding such an expert.

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The personal computer is coming to the aid of passenger ferries fighting competition from the Channel Tunnel, writes David Hewson. P&O is installing Acorn PCs with a range of educational software in the children's play areas of its ferries on the Portsmouth-Le Havre route.

If the experiment proves a success, PCs with school-type software and interactive travel services could become a feature on more of the lines' long-haul crossings.

Children can use the two Acorn PCs on each ferry to play a variety of entertaining educational packages. Acorn, the originator of the BBC computer family, maintains a strong share of the UK's schools computing market and is trying to increase its presence in the mainstream PC arena.

The partnership with P&O will also see cross promotions between the two companies, with free children's tickets on the ferries while Acorn's hand-held computer, the PocketBook II, will be sold in P&O's duty free shops.



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Writing does not end with the program, says David Guest. The manuals and documentation are integral

## Undervalued, not understood

One of the opening lines of code in a Cobol program asks the programmer to identify him or herself. It says: "Author."

A Cobol program is as distantly related to anything an author might produce as can be imagined. There are, however, two ways in which programmers are called on to perform more conventional writing duties — documentation and technical manuals.

Documentation is the description that should be produced with every program. So that programmers called on to maintain the program can find their way around it. Manuals are usually intended for the people who will use the program.

Both are Cinderella occupations. To most programmers, documentation is a chore that follows the interesting part of the work — coding. Manuals are often seen as a cost, in contrast to the program itself, which should be a revenue generator. As a result the exercise is undervalued.

Sarah Melcher, runs The Write Solution, a company which specialises in documentation. She believes that the practice of technical authoring is now so seriously undervalued — and badly done — that the performance of systems is being put at jeopardy. She has also seen perfectly competent IT professionals reduced to frustration and demoralisation by the impenetrability of technical literature.

Ms Melcher has worked with the international standards certification processes that are supposed to assure software quality. "People pull out their books, read them and say: 'What am I supposed to do?' They might ask their managers, but not always, because they are afraid to appear technically ignorant," she says.

"The managers themselves are worried that they might look as though they are not managing. So you have a situation where there is a huge belief in quality assurance at top management level and as it filters down to the staff it gets washed away."

Those are the symptoms, she says; the illness is that documentation "is written by people not trained to write professional and process documentation".

Is there an opportunity here for IT specialists to move into a new niche? "It is beginning to happen," says Geoff Quentin, managing director of London-based training

specialist Quality Computer Courses. "Last week I met a person who I'd last seen a couple of years ago on a course. Although her employer wanted her to continue in programming, she had taken a deliberate step to change her career to be a tester and process writer."

Some retraining is necessary and an aptitude for English is a useful starting point, but other skills are important. Ms Melcher says an appreciation of cognitive learning is central. Mr Quentin points out that intimate knowledge of IT is not vital: "When you're documenting a process for quality, it doesn't matter whether it's cheese or a computer system."

Software quality is a growth area but a move into process documentation might not pay immediate dividends. Writers of documentation in general are undervalued. "There is a basic lack of understanding about the power of good documentation," Ms Melcher says.

How undervalued are technical authors? Recent advertisements have not specified salaries: one, in a group of vacancies that promised up to £35,000 for software specialists and £30,000 for engineers, merely said: negotiable for technical authors. A consultant specialising in the field said that around £15,000 was not unusual.

Perhaps for this reason, and perhaps because companies do not always distinguish between different types of documentation, there is some scepticism about formal measures of software quality.

Certification is provided abroad by the International Standards Organisation and in the UK by a kite-mark equivalent, an increasingly common requirement from companies doing business with software suppliers. But doubts about the value of certification remain, and are likely to be overcome only if companies can satisfy themselves that it means what it says.

"There has been a tendency for

companies to take the standards manuals, work through them, heave a sigh of relief that that's over and go back to the way they've always done things," Mr Quentin notes.

The ideal person to be a process documenter, he says, would be a "line manager or someone who has made a career out of describing processes". He adds: "In IT there are few such people. What often happens is that individuals try to sell it as a methodology, it costs thousands of pounds and gets inflicted on the inmates whether it fits or not."

Ms Melcher has been writing process documentation for four years and manuals for five more before that. Her organisation offers itself as a trouble-shooter to help companies through the process. "If the staff are not admitting to a problem a company's best bet is to bring in someone from outside," she says.

Mr Quentin suggests that a gap is opening between companies that take the documentation question seriously and those that continue to regard it as incidental to the main work. His company conducts courses in the field.

Many of those who attend, he says, "are not sufficiently senior to be able to put in place a process, or they are people who have been given the job of documenting something, have been found a course and sent along".



Sarah Melcher offers an advisory service for technical authors

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# War of the flying toasters

Screensavers are a rare example of humour for the sake of it, says David Hewson

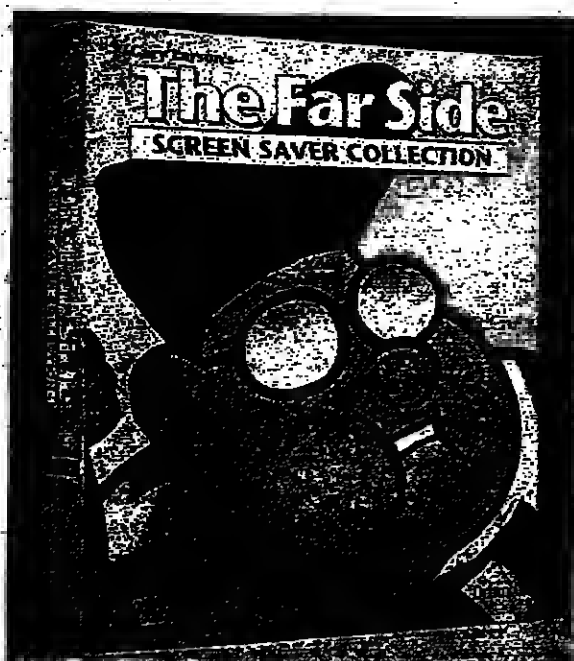
Berkeley Systems began life in 1987 as a tiny start-up company in California funded by a \$50,000 public grant to develop software for sight-impaired computer users.

This very serious intention has resulted in a number of acclaimed utilities for people who cannot normally use a PC. But somewhere along the way, someone at Berkeley made a distinctly unserious suggestion. Why, not they said, write a piece of software that waited until you had not used your computer for a while, then blanked out the screen and sent a squadron of winged kitchen toasters flying elegantly across the screen?

This being California, the person did not receive a kindly smile and a move to a corner office blessed with soft furnishings.

A year later the flying toaster duly appeared in a piece of software called After Dark, and the great screensaver boom began. Today Berkeley is a 160-employee company that leads the market with best-selling packages for both Windows and the Macintosh.

The screensaver cast list now extends well beyond flying toasters to licensed "actors" which include Star Trek and Disney characters, and posters from Marvel Comics,



The latest salvo in the screensavers war for on-screen artistry is the collectable series of Far Side cartoon images by Gary Larson, from Delrina



while the company's great rival in screen artistry, Canadian company, Delrina, has just released animated software featuring the distinctly bizarre pictures, sounds and songs of Far Side cartoonist Gary Larson.

Screensavers are a rare example of humour on the PC, but big business too. They rarely cost more than £30 each and the analysts IDC predict the worldwide market for moving screen "wallpaper" packages will more than double from £50 million in 1993 to £120 million in 1997.

And all for something that is, for most users, completely unnecessary. The software stems from the days when computers were left on 24 hours a day for weeks on end,

with the same picture on the screen. In this situation, the static image will eventually "burn" a permanent image of itself on the screen.

By replacing the static image with a moving one, screensaver creators boast that they can prevent "burn-in", which is true. What they fail to tell you is that burn-in will only happen if you leave your monitor on for months on end in the first place, and that most modern screens have a power-down facility which switches them off when they are not in use anyway.

The real point of screensavers is entertainment. The latest version of After Dark has a range of different saver models which you can choose according to your mood: a

virtual fish tank for those stressful days, or a playful pup that appears to rip your work apart when you need a little adrenalin. Tropical fish feature in several screensavers, including one version where they demand to be "fed" at regular intervals and will float, dead, to the top of the "tank" if you ignore them.

For two years running screensavers have won first prize at the United States' annual weird software contest at the San Diego Computer Fair. Last year first prize went to an animated tribute to the original After Dark which featured flying toilets.

This year, it was Road Kill in which a chicken wanders

into the middle of a main road and narrowly avoids being run over by an oncoming car that makes every effort to miss the bird. A lawyer then wanders into the middle of the road and the car gleefully mows him down.

Online networks now positively groan under the weight of amateur screensavers. A few current favourites include Romance, which "writes" random bodice-ripper short stories, and Tabloid, a module that generates National Inquirer-style tabloid press stories that typically feature a 600lb gorilla marrying the local plumber.

But the size of the screensaver market can make the humour wear thin among those fighting it out for our

custom. Last year, Delrina introduced its own flying toaster with wings in its Bill and Opus package, featuring two well-known American cartoon characters.

Berkeley, which regards the flying toaster as its corporate logo, promptly took to the courts in a protracted legal case in which a judge had to decide whether the image of a winged toaster resided in the public domain or did, indeed, belong to the company that had first thought of it.

Berkeley finally won the exclusive right to toasters with wings, so buyers of Delrina's packages are now entertained by airborne toasters which stay aloft thanks to helicopter blades. Such is the price of progress.

## Scoring points

COMPUTER scoring systems to determine whether individuals are credit worthy are already widely in use. Now there is a new system that can also work out whether it is worth suing a debtor.

Epic 2, developed by Legal & Trade Collections, a debt collecting agency based in Preston, compares information about a debtor with geographic and behavioural information based on the records of thousands of other debtors.

## PR package

BAD news for journalists with the announcement of a Do-It-Yourself PR package for PCs. D-I-Y PR costs £49 and contains 100 template press releases. The developers, CCA Software, say it will cover more than 95 per cent of situations where small to medium sized businesses need to issue a press release. "All the user needs to do is fill in the blanks" says the Stockport, Cheshire-based firm.

## Ring her neck

It may be good to talk, as the BT advertisements say, but one Japanese woman was so consumed by jealousy of a colleague that she phoned her about 150,000 times over eight years before being arrested.

Takako Sato, 39, called 50 times a day from August 1986, police said. Her colleague finally fell into a nervous depression and complained to the police.

## Double density

Hitachi, Sony and 3M have agreed on specifications for a new, high-density 3½ in magneto-optical disc which will be able to store 650 megabytes of data — about the same as CD-Roms and more than three times that of that of conventional discs. The three said they plan to launch the disc and the drives next summer.

## Cinema chips

It took more than a decade of hard work, but the film Belgian producers say will launch an era of high-tech cinema is finally finished.

Taxandria fuses make-believe with reality, combining animation with live action. Two-thirds of the 90-minute film uses special effects. "American films such as Jurassic Park use special effects in five-minute bursts and always in action scenes where the music and noise divert attention from the special effects" says executive producer Dany Geys.

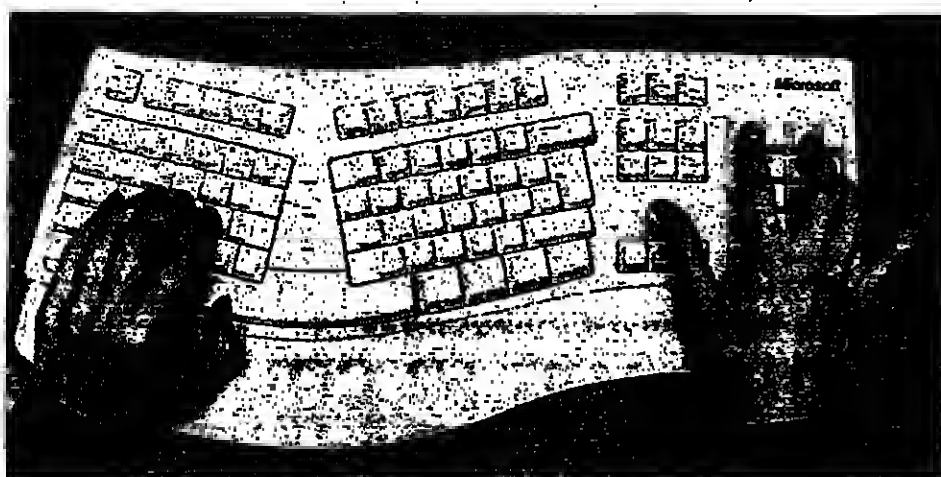
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The Times online service includes articles from and discussion areas for the Infotech, Travel, Media and Marketing and Education sections in the paper.

Readers can try the service through Delphi, which also provides access to the Internet. The first five hours of use are free. Subscriptions then start at £10 plus VAT per month which includes the first four hours of use per month. More information from 071 757 7080.

Infotech is edited by Matthew May. E-mail address: matt\_times@delphi.com

Ergonomic keyboards are an attempt to deal with RSI



A new Microsoft keyboard may change work habits and lessen the chances of injury

## Putting their hands on the table

In coming months, computer manufacturers are going to try to change the way you work. They will warn you that the way you use your present keyboard could hurt you and that new, innovative designs will make repetitive strain injury (RSI) less likely. But you should be aware that it is their lawyers, as much as their designers, who are behind this push towards healthier keyboards.

In the litigation-mad United States, where the health care costs of RSI are sky-rocketing and insurance premiums are increasing, anything which might help reduce injuries is bound to sell well.

Although a lawsuit against a leading manufacturer, Compaq, for RSI injuries allegedly sustained by a user were dismissed earlier this year, there are many more still to be heard — and it is quite possible that at least one might stick. It will only take one multi-million dollar damage award in a US court to dramatically up the RSI stakes.

The American software giant Microsoft, for example, has recently launched the Microsoft Natural Keyboard — a £70 VAT add-on that it is touting heavily as an aid to a more ergonomic work environment.

Compaq started putting warnings on its keyboard's earlier this year, while Microsoft is treating the fine line between selling its keyboard as a potential preventive measure against RSI, while disclaiming legal responsibility for RSI injuries.

A recent "product background" on the keyboard shows the fine line it is trying to walk: "Research showed

that many keyboard users tend to keep their forearms horizontal at keyboard height to reach the keys, rotate the forearms to keep the palms facing downward and cramp the shoulders and arms inward to accommodate the narrow width of the key layout," warns the company.

"To address this, a set of design criteria was proposed for a new, more comfortable design."

Needless to say, all those issues were addressed in one way or another by the Natural

As many as 4.4 million people suffer as a result of a poor work environment

Keyboard. But Microsoft then goes on to say that it "does not claim that its new Natural Keyboard will either prevent or cure repetitive stress injuries... Microsoft does believe that the Natural Keyboard does allow the user to assume a more natural posture of the hands and wrists. Many factors may contribute to an individual's discomfort during periods of repetitive activity."

To its credit, Microsoft does list these factors — as well as many actions users can take to mitigate them — in its documentation for the keyboard.

Microsoft is not the only manufacturer to provide keyboard alternatives. Apple Computers has offered stan-

dard Qwerty keyboard alternatives for more than a year now, while third-party keyboard manufacturers — such as Keytronic — offer generally available innovative keyboard alternatives for standard PC-compatible systems.

These moves are really an admission of what statistics have long suggested. A study released last year by Canadian computer workstation manufacturer Formico reported that as many as 4.4 million people in the US alone suffer from "disabilities associated with a poor ergonomic work environment." While the percentage of those disabilities that could be directly attributed to RSI was not broken down, the report did say that it formed the most common category of disability.

The report also suggested that an estimated \$40 billion in lost wages and medical costs is the annual bill for RSI. Meanwhile, the US Bureau of Labor Statistics last year estimated that RSI-related complaints comprised some 56 per cent of injuries reported to the country's Occupational Safety and Health Administration — a percentage that has doubled since 1984.

RSI is generally considered the "catch-all" term for a number of specific types of computer-use-related disabilities — including carpal tunnel syndrome (CTS), tendonitis and tenosynovitis. Any of these problems could potentially afflict those who use computer keyboards for as little as two hours a day.

RSI can cause pain and swelling from inflammation of joints and tendons caused by excessive pressure or motion. CTS, the most common form of RSI-associated problem reported by computer users, is pain, numbness and weakness of compression of the nerve that passes through the wrist joint (the carpal tunnel).

The fact that manufacturers and employers alike are starting to admit the impact of RSI appears to be driven by the two greatest forces for change: fear of lost productivity and fear of litigation.

## The nation goes online

A computer link to the White House is in place

AL GORE, the American Vice-President, announced a relatively easy-to-use computer link to the White House this week as well as to many federal departments and agencies. It will allow public access to US government documents and information.

It is called "Welcome to the White House: an Interactive Citizen's Handbook", and users can access about 3,000 documents produced by the Administration and send electronic mail there.

"We're putting the White House online," said Mr Gore. The electronic handbook is an attempt to cut government costs and red tape further. The link-up is also a teaching tool for schools and libraries, he



Al Gore: taking the White House to the people

said. "In some ways, it's like an electronic post office." The service includes information on how to start and finance a small business, get farm loans, find federal jobs, and learn about retirement or veteran's benefits. There is also information about government-funded child care and education programmes, space exploration, registering products, disaster assistance and national parks.

Users can also take a "virtual tour" of the White House, complete with colour graphics. Lionel Johns, the associate director for technology in the White House office of science and technology policy, said the cost of putting the federal agencies online was virtually nothing, since the computer hardware, telephone lines and volunteer help was in place.

The White House material can be accessed via the Internet's World Wide Web technology, which interfaces text, with pictures and graphics, and allows easier access to the Internet.

The Internet address for Welcome to the White House is: <http://www.whitehouse.gov>

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The management of constant change and improvement is a major challenge to the business and the provision of internal IT systems. Following a recent upgrade in processing power, the first task is managing departmental resources to provide internal users at various locations with the business systems necessary to drive the company forward. Secondly, the future direction of IT within the business must be determined, planned for and implemented.

The role interfaces at senior management level, is highly visible and directly accountable for systems improvement and development. Candidates must therefore have a record of achievement in the development of IT systems on a company wide scale, with at least five years' experience in a management position. A sound understanding of sophisticated order processing/distribution systems is essential, while familiarity with EDI and POS would be advantageous. However, the keys to success will be an overall understanding of business systems requirements, the ability to communicate effectively and the capability to deliver workable systems to the business.

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FOCUS

IGER

# Getting down to grass roots

Michael Hornsby on a remarkable anniversary for British plant research

A turning-point in the history of modern agriculture is being commemorated this month at Aberystwyth. Dyfed. For 1994 marks the 75th anniversary of the founding of the Welsh Plant Breeding Station (WPBS), which survives as the nucleus and headquarters of the more recently-formed Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER).



Director Chris Pollock: "the focus has shifted"

Some might question whether the legacy of Sir George Stapledon (1882-1960), the agricultural botanist who created the WPBS in 1919, has been an unalloyed benefit. The grass-breeding techniques he pioneered certainly changed the landscape by hastening the disappearance of semi-natural meadows and pastures.

However history judges the farming revolution of the past 50 years, there can be no dispute that the WPBS played a crucial role in making it possible. Nowhere is this clearer than in the dairy industry. Since the mid-1950s milk yields have risen from 3,400 to 5,200 litres per cow. At least half that increase can be attributed to improved grass and fodder crops.

Stapledon argued that grass should be treated as an arable crop that could be cultivated and improved like any other by selective breeding. The first task he set himself was to collect examples of the best pasture grasses from all over Britain. New varieties bred from this material began appearing in the 1930s, many of

these "S" strains becoming standards throughout temperate parts of the Commonwealth. The best known and longest-lasting was S23, a variety of perennial ryegrass first released in 1933 and in use more than 50 years later.

Collecting expeditions, both here and overseas, are still an important part of IGER's work. The institute is the main European centre for the conservation of genetic resources of ryegrass and white clover. Recent trips have concentrated on central and eastern Europe.

In the 1920s and 1930s, the dominant influences on research were the great agricultural depression and the desperate need to raise the low income of livestock farmers in the hills. Still a concern today, improving upland grass production assumed an even greater importance during the Second World War, when much lowland pasture was ploughed up to grow crops to replace imported food.

With peace the emphasis switched to re-sowing with grass and restoring the pastures that had been turned over to wartime arable farming. Over the years research has broadened to embrace hybridisation, tissue culture, plant pathology and cytology, the development of strains tolerant of cold and drought, the efficiency of nutrient uptake by livestock, climate change and the reclamation of land from colliery spoil.

Much of this work will remain central to IGER's ac-



Clover culture at the Welsh Plant Breeding Station in the 1930s, and (right) an IGER molecular biologist today



tivities, but in an era of near self-sufficiency in most temperate foodstuffs and growing criticism of farming's destructive impact on the countryside, it is being adapted to new ends. "Farmers throughout Europe are grappling with the problem of not needing to increase production," says Chris Pollock, IGER's director of research. "For the institute this has meant a new focus on the idea of sustainability in the broadest sense: sustaining farmers' profits by lowering the cost of inputs and increasing the quality of output."

One consequence, Professor Pollock says, is that the institute's early research into the role of white clover — a consuming passion of its founder — has acquired a new relevance. "Growing grass-clover swards went, out of

fashion, but now clover is coming back in again because it reduces the need to spread fields with costly petroleum-based fertilisers, and is more environment-friendly. Clover is also a high-quality herbage for cattle."

Grass-breeding is still what the institute is all about, but the emphasis is now much more on improving nutritional quality. "We are trying to define exactly what makes for digestibility and palatability. Molecular biology will speed up the selection of desirable traits."

One of the main farming changes made possible by improved grass growth has been the widespread switch since the mid-1970s from hay to silage. Silage has great nutritional advantages and, unlike hay, does not have to be

dried, the grass being cut when still green and then stored and allowed to ferment. An important part of IGER's research is now directed at reducing the effluent from silage clamps and silos, which has become a big cause of river pollution.

IGER came into being in 1990 after a period of upheaval and restructuring caused by the Government's decision to cut public funding for so-called "near-market" research aimed at immediate commercial application. Private industry was supposed to step into the gap but has as yet only partially done so, leaving IGER with barely half the staff of its short-lived predecessor, the Institute of Grassland and Animal Production.

With a workforce of 392, of whom 256 are scientists,

IGER's work is now concentrated on four sites, including the WPBS. The other three are at Trawsgoed, 13 miles south of Aberystwyth, which specialises in dairy farming; North Wyke, near Okehampton in Devon, which is researching low-input grassland agriculture and restoring floral diversity to meadows; and Bronydd Mawr, a hill farm near Brecon, Powys.

IGER had funding of £10 million in 1993-94, of which nearly 90 per cent still came from the Ministry of Agriculture and other government departments in one form or another, with the European Union and commercial sponsors making up the balance. The institute will now be looking urgently for increased financial backing from private industry partners.

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ABERDEEN Angus beef, Welsh lamb, farmhouse Cheddar, Silton and the other fine traditional cheeses Britain is famous for are all sought after by the gourmet, thanks in part to the quality of the grass the animal producing them grazed on.

Virtually all grassland breeding in the UK is concentrated at IGER, where historically the station has produced a whole range of well-known strains carrying the S-prefix.

However, in 1988 the Government cut back its financial commitment, which has meant that most work must be now concentrated on rye grasses, the most productive species. Mr. Dai Hides is one of the leading breeders at IGER, and he has a clear view of what farmers need in new varieties.

"We must breed for quality and improved digestibility, because that leads to more efficient animal production. We have also to concentrate on grasses which make the best use of nitrogen, either applied as bag fertiliser or resulting from fixation by clover in the sward."

Mr. Hides says that persistence is an aspect to which he and his team are paying particular attention. "Severe winter frosts and hot dry summer periods can drastically reduce productivity and persistence. Such extremes already occur occasionally in the UK and it is possible that future changes in weather patterns may increase their frequency."

Scientists from IGER are scouring the world looking at

native grasses which may have some desirable characteristics which could be worth incorporating into new varieties. At Gogarburn in Scotland, a whole range of trial plots feature grasses from Poland. Some have been taken from village greens, some from hay meadows, quarries and goose pastures. Few are likely to be commercially viable on their own account, but they may just have something to offer in grass varieties for the 21st century.

A problem for grass breeders is that there are no tests currently being undertaken in the UK on the interaction between various varieties and differing species within a sward. "The grazing animal is the ultimate test-bed," Mr. Hides says. "It would be helpful if we could incorporate that into our work."

As far as links with the food producers goes, Tim Briscoe, business manager at IGER, says the future will depend on developing much closer links beyond the farm gate right through to the retailer. For the beef market, for example, the challenge is to supply consistent, top-quality meat from systems that are both welfare and consumer-orientated. Beef must be seen as part of that food chain.

Technical efficiency, keeping costs under control, and producing the type of beef required by the consumer is the way forward. IGER's role will be to provide the grass its consumers want.

DAVID YOUNG

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## Organic mission to convert

A pioneering project that could transform the face of farming, cut river pollution, and improve the fate of wildlife has been launched by IGER in Wales.

Researchers at the Trawsgoed centre have been given government backing to convert a dairy farm, which was previously managed in the conventional intensive way, into an organic one. They are collaborating with ten other farms, including the Prince of Wales's Highgrove Estate in Gloucestershire.

The scheme, which is assessing the costs, animal welfare and environmental impacts of switching to less intensive agriculture, will help dairymen across the country to decide if this kind of farming is economically feasible.

Europe's Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) is planning to reduce surpluses by cutting subsidies to intensive farmers. The greening of the CAP is also aimed at reducing the slurry mountains caused by packing cows on to land to maximise milk outputs. Slurry and the nitrogen fertilisers spread thickly on grass to feed big herds can cause pollution of rivers, lakes and the sea.

Heavy use of pesticides has also been linked to a range of illnesses in wildlife and humans. Animals managed under intensive farming methods are often fed large amounts of antibiotics to ward

A team in Wales is switching from intensive to organic dairy farming

off diseases such as mastitis. Consumer attitudes are changing, albeit slowly. As many as 11 per cent of consumers are now regularly buying organic foods. Retail sales of products clearly labelled as coming from organic farms rose to £105.1 million in 1993, compared with £92.5 million in 1992, according to Mintel.

Earlier this month, John Gummer, the Environment Secretary, told organic producers that "there will be more environmentally friendly farming, more widely and more quickly than most people think. The organic movement will be at the heart of that."

The Ministry of Agriculture has, since August, been offering farmers financial assistance to switch to organic methods. While critics claim the payments are derisory compared to those intensive farmers still enjoy, supporters say they are a start.

It is within these developments that IGER's conversion research is set to become vital. Patrick Holden of the Soil Association, one of the leading organic groups, which is in regular contact with 632 farmers who have chosen to follow the organic option, says most of Britain's organic farmers "farm for reasons of philosophy. They believe so strongly it

is the right way to farm that they want to do it, even if it is not the most economic way."

But the rest of Britain's farmers will need more convincing. The importance of the institute's research is that, for the first time, the Government is giving funding to organic research and development.

The work is being orchestrated by Professor Roger Hagger, IGER's director, and the institute's organic conversion programme. The project involves between 70 and 80 Friesian cows, about a third less than the original intensively managed herd at IGER.

Instead of fertilisers, the nitrogen needed to produce forage comes from clover, which fixes the element in the

soil. This means that the land can support fewer cows. The institute's team is testing various clovers, including an Alpine variety, to maximise nitrogen fixation earlier in the year and to identify ones which can tolerate slurry.

And homeopathic preparations are being used instead of antibiotics to fend off infections. The project, he says, is proving a success with infections low on the farm. While output per cow slumped by a quarter initially, the researchers have now increased yields by up to 5,041 litres per cow. In the hedgerows and grassland on the farm surveys are being made of wildlife to see if fewer chemicals mean more birds, mammals and butterflies. Preliminary findings indicate that there are also being helped, with 65 species of bird observed and small mammals such as voles on the increase.

NICK NUTTALL

IGER

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# Reaping a world harvest

Grass seeds developed in Britain with IGER's expertise are sold worldwide. David Young reports

After all the research, expertise and careful nurturing for the 15 years that is required to develop a new strain of grass, it seems a crime to cut the lawn every week.

However, it is that expertise in research and development that has made the Institute of Grassland and Environmental Research (IGER) a world leader in its specialty, and an important contributor to the nation's invisible earnings.

Such research has to be paid for, and the Government contributes around £10 million of funding through the Cabinet Office's Office of Science and Technology. Other government departments which contribute, as a result of competitive tendering by IGER, are the agriculture ministry, the Department of the Environment and the Overseas Development Administration.

Other funds come from the European Union through research programmes, and statutory levy boards such as the Home Grown Cereals Authority, the Meat and Livestock Commission and the former Milk Marketing Board.

However, increasingly funding comes from related industrial users, such as Zeneca Bio Products and BOCM Pauls Ltd.

One of the most important links IGER has is with British Seed Houses, which is part of the Germinal Holdings Group, based in Northern Ireland.

Over 50 years ago Northern Ireland was one of the most important areas for the production of ryegrass seed. Although the industry has all but

disappeared in the province it is interesting that once again the important grass seed business, although operating mainly in England, is linked with Northern Ireland.

In 1988 Germinal Holdings took over responsibility for funding the "near-market" research programme for grasses and clovers developed at Aberystwyth, when the Government withdrew from that side of the business. Since it takes ten to 15 years to develop new strains and then a further five years to conduct field trials, it is only recently that Germinal Holdings has been able to start supplying farmers with new strains first developed at Aberystwyth and then successfully tested at Germinal Holdings' trial farms.

The arrangement means that Germinal Holdings has the world marketing rights for the products developed at IGER. Managing director Neville Bark says: "This means that we have the job of getting the products into the hands of the farmers in Britain and in important overseas markets."

"We have trials going on in various countries and are able to show farmers new grasses specially developed to meet the demands of new practices and techniques. We have customers in New Zealand and throughout Europe, in fact in any country which has similar climatic conditions to those experienced in the UK."

The Eastern European market could become very important as there has been a lack of investment in agriculture there, and many farmers could benefit considerably from the grasses and clovers



An "artificial nose" is used to measure smells from farm waste at North Wyke in Devon

that have been developed by IGER and are now being marketed by our company.

"The sheer depth of expertise and the range of research being done by IGER means that farmers can be assured of getting the best products available for their needs, although the time scales involved can be considerable."

That depth of expertise at IGER can be supplemented by the facilities at the University of Aberystwyth, which has been working in agricultural research since the turn of the century and, since the 1930s, with IGER in the fields of agronomy, plant-breeding and genetics.

The director of IGER and several of his senior colleagues are all honorary research associates at the university, and researchers from the two institutes have formed the Aberystwyth Cell Genetics Group, which carries out many joint research projects.

The Cell group has more than 70 senior biologists with their associated research teams of postgraduate and post-doctoral workers, and in addition many IGER staff are involved in teaching within the university's Institute of Biological Sciences.

It is IGER's access to such skilled personnel and such facilities which led the Welsh Development Agency recently to designate it a Centre of Excellence. Unusually the whole of IGER was covered by the designation, rather than a single department.

IGER also has strong links with the University of Plymouth through its North Wyke research station at Okehampton in Devon. A recent five-year agreement has been signed with the university which provides a formal framework to encourage support for mutual research activities and consultancy, and postgraduate research work.

Professor John Bull, Vice-Chancellor of the university, says: "This agreement will further advance the development in Devon of a major national and international centre for research and education in agricultural and environmental sciences."

Research already in progress covers a study of how to prevent odours from farm waste, on behalf of the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and Food, and work funded by the National Environmental Research Council on the movement of chemical pollutants in soil.

## On the trail of a supergrass

Want your grass greener? The IGER researchers are on the case

THE prospect of grass being greener on the other side of the street is more than a mere figure of speech to scientists breeding new varieties of turf at IGER.

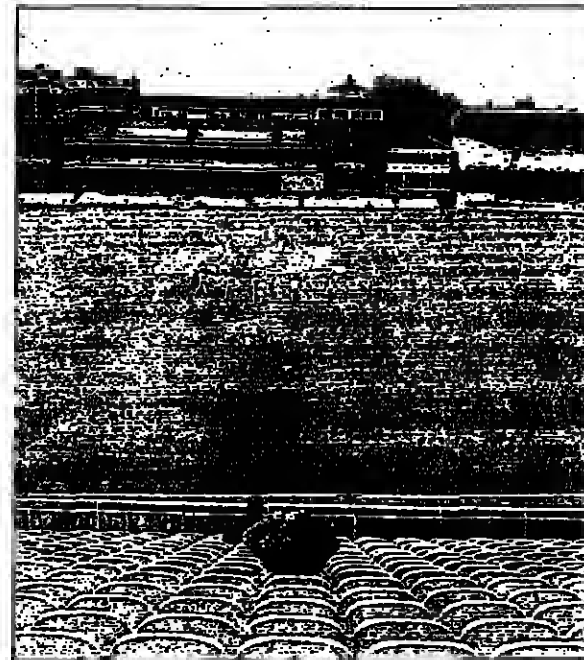
They use a portable instrument called a Chromameter to make accurate and objective colour measurements of different samples of turf.

In using the records of the precise shade of green of grass grown to improve seed varieties, the scientists also take account of the subjective assessments of groups of people. They "score" experimental plots of grass from a visual inspection. The results show that Americans rate darker green colours more highly than Europeans.

Dr Danny Thorogood, one of the internationally recognised team of plant breeders at Aberystwyth, believes the difference may be linked to five days, consider how much of it was due to a yellow and light green hue, and virtually absent in North America.

He suspects European horticulturists have concentrated on mixtures of seed that give lighter colour grass because the intruding meadow grass is less obvious. It avoids a mosaic effect.

His group is testing new varieties of super-grass seed for turf that is easier to maintain — whether for the back lawn, Wembley, Murrayfield, Lords, Cardiff Arms Park or Ascot. While agricultural use of ryegrass seed has remained static, demand for ryegrass seed bred specifically for turf for "amenity" grass surfaces — gardens, parks, sports grounds — has increased ten-fold in the past 12 years.



The Lord's cricket pitch uses specially bred ryegrass

Seed mixtures vary, depending on whether they are intended for a heavy-duty surface, an attractive manicured lawn or a billiard-table-smooth bowling green.

Next time you see a Test wicket play true throughout five days, consider how much of it was due to a surface created from collaboration between an experienced groundsman and a knowledgeable seed supplier.

Dr Thorogood is developing a selection of turf seed to give subtle variations in the green hue of the leaf, to retain a fresh green colour, to cut easily and to need less fertiliser.

The research into the development of top-class turf is supported by the Government's Biotechnology and Biological Sciences Research Council (BBSRC, formerly the Agricultural and Food Research Council) and specialist firms such as British Seed Houses at Avonmouth.

"Each turf grass application is slightly different", he says. So turf may comprise a

mixture of the seeds of ryegrass, red fescue, bents and smooth-stalked meadow grass to produce the right texture and characteristics.

In principle, an ideal turf has a high density of shoots with a fine leaf texture that can be maintained in conditions of drought, cold and disease.

If the main purpose is, say, to reduce mowing costs, then a short leaf and slow regrowth become useful qualities. In practice, the fast growth of ryegrass makes it attractive for turf that must withstand hard wear and tear. Cross-breeding of ryegrasses with other varieties from natural habitats, by the Aberystwyth scientists, is producing hard-wearing, disease-resistant turfs.

But while the new methods of molecular biology are pinpointing the genes for the various traits of plants, transferring them to create new crosses and hybrids still depends on established methods of breeding.

PEARCE WRIGHT

Sheep carrying mini-computers are checking on the Chernobyl fallout

## Sheep may safely graze

Six years after the Chernobyl nuclear accident, its effects are still being seen in Britain's grazing pastures, especially in upland areas of Wales and the Lake District, where contaminated rain has passed pollutants into the grass.

However, scientists have found that the radio-caesium which fell on the area is passing into individual sheep at highly variable rates, and IGER is now carrying out an investigation which is drawing on its years of expertise while at the same time using leading-edge technology.

In a one-year pilot study funded by the Ministry of Agriculture Fisheries and

Food, Dr Mark Ritter, from IGER's research centre at North Wyke in Devon, and Nick Beresford, from the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology in Cumbria, have been assessing the potential of using the Global Positioning System (GPS) developed by the US Department of Defence to track sheep in the affected area.

A small flock of Herdwick ewes in Devon were used to test the equipment with an antenna, receiver and micro-computer supplied by Industrial Development in Bangor, fitted in a small back-pack strapped to the sheep.

The equipment successfully tracked the sheep as they



Herdwick sheep were used in the Devon backpack test

wandered in the hilly area, and although the terrain did cause problems the GPS satellite was able to keep track of the ewes for 96 per cent of the period, accurately identifying their position at any one time. The microcomputer pack fitted to each sheep also logged its every jaw movement and the data collected, once analysed, will show the researchers precisely where and when every sheep grazed.

Following the success of the pilot study it is now planned to fit similar equipment to sheep in areas affected by the fall-out from Chernobyl. Animals with both high and low radio-caesium levels will be tracked. Their behaviour patterns will be closely monitored, which will give the institute some insight into the causes of the high variations in radio-caesium levels within some flocks.

The project will also find out what sheep prefer to eat so that the environmental impact of extensive farming, as opposed to intensive, can be predicted. Sheep eat both grass and clover, so the Devon test area was split in two with a fixed

video camera filming whether an animal was on grass or clover, and a jaw sensor detecting when the animal was grazing or ruminating. The on-sheep computer stored information on every jaw movement so that the information could be analysed in the laboratory and married to the video.

Peter Penning, the IGER team leader, says: "The European Union plans to move away from intensive farming to improve the agricultural environment. Clover could be useful because it fixes nitrogen in the soil so fertilisers do not need to be used. But if animals eat all the clover, grazing won't be sustainable."

IGER has already found that sheep definitely prefer clover, but they always include about 30 per cent grass.

Mr Penning says: "We don't know why this happens. To get the fittest, leanest lambs farmers feed them only clover. So perhaps sheep are just like us. We would get fed up if we had the same healthy food every meal."

DAVID YOUNG

## TransTech INTERNATIONAL

1-2 DECEMBER 1994 - CARDIFF INTERNATIONAL ARENA

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- David Rowe-Beddoe - Chairman Welsh Development Agency
- Professor Garel Rhys - University of Wales, Cardiff
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# Race against time for 40 golden years

I took me some years to take Roy of the Rovers seriously. When I first encountered him, Roy Race had joined the new school in Melchester, where his footballing ability soon gained him a place in the under-15s; his rival, Bert Boston, gave him and his pal, Blackie Gray, a hard time, but the pals won through: can't keep good men down.

Roy Race's end of term report praises his mathematics, "especially algebra and trigonometry which he has shown an encouraging liking for"; in English language, he "demonstrated the ability to eloquently transcribe his thoughts into poetry". Of form-teacher, Mr O'Shaughnessy, who splits infinitives



FREUD ON FRIDAY

and ends phrases with prepositions, we properly hear no more.)

The Tiger, priced at £3d, appeared every Tuesday and led with Roy of the Rovers. In issue No 1, September 11, 1954, the local cup-tie stands at 0-0 (no record of the score at half-time) and, with his pals of the Milton Youth Club FC played to a standstill. Roy Race is the one man in the team who is oreless and on his toes. Could he score one before the final whistle? Silly question, really, and, unknown to Roy, the game was being watched by a first division talent scout, Alf Leeds, who was in charge of the famous Melchester Rovers A team.

In December of that year, Roy and Blackie were playing in the A team and Roy quickly notched his first senior goal from a perfectly-weighted pass by Blackie.

Those two lads are working wonders... it won't be long before they are both in Rovers' first team, a man in the crowd thinks. He thought right. Melchester broke the bank to



Roy Race is joined by Rodney Marsh at a celebration in London this week to mark the fortieth anniversary of the first Roy of the Rovers

sign Arty Hedlow, for £10,000. Ben Galloway, the manager, said of his new signing: "Playing alongside an international of Hedlow's character, young Roy will blossom into a player with a great future."

Hedlow turned out to be an arrogant swine and was struck down by a mystery knee injury. He was out for the season. Melchester were knocked out of the sixth round of the FA Cup by "lowly" Sturford United (how lowly Sturford is not explained) and the slump continued with a 3-0 home defeat by Charnley Athletic. In August 1956, Mr Galloway signed Pierre Dupont of Rochemont, the crack French side. Dupont put *le chat* amongst *les pigeons* at Melchester and Sam Higby, threatened by the French-

man's presence, "ensures that he will miss the start of the game."

What persuaded me to read Roy as diligently as I read the Four Marys in *Bunty* was the arrival of Jumbo Trudgeon... a man in whom I could believe, or, as form-teacher O'Shaughnessy would have said, "a man I can believe in".

The year was 1964. Rovers had had a fair time of it: League champions in 1957-8, 1959-60, 1962-3 and FA Cup winners twice in that time before taking the European Cup in 1963-4. Jumbo joined the Rovers in September and I can do no more than quote the Sandford match report:

"Key to Rovers continuing confidence and success is new signing, at inside left, Lord Darcy Plantagenet Trudgeon-Marlcy, better known in the

circles of royalty and society as "Jumbo" Trudgeon. He has agreed to join Rovers on a no-pay, no-contract deal. A multi-millionaire landowner, Trudgeon has no need for seeking a living from football. He has quickly proved that he will not be a fish out of water; his second-half hat-trick against Sandford bodes of many great things for the future."

Now we were getting close to real football... and in *Bunty* they countered with a character called the Honourable Harriet, who played hockey and was served Earl Grey tea and cucumber sandwiches on Meissen by her butler on the touchline at half-time.

Jumbo came when the team were in need of strengthening, for, on the pre-season tour of South America, Rovers had

been kidnapped by local brigands, marched through the rain forests and made to play against a team of rebels; after reluctantly agreeing, they played "and the final scoreline of 17-2 showed their undoubted superiority".

Despite this ordeal, they managed to escape on horseback and arrive in Malaga City minutes before the kick-off, having had no sleep for 48 hours. Yet Rovers won. Roy Race, in the final seconds, scored with a scissors kick, and you can see the full back saying: "Caramba, it is there. Goal."

After the first 20 years of fine fantasy, it then got a bit close to what went on elsewhere in the game: Roy is shot and they sign Sir Alf Ramsey as caretaker manager; they engage a man called "superbrat"; Geoff

Boyce is appointed chairman of Melchester; Roy marries. Roy has twins; they sign Emlyn Hughes and Bob Wilson; eight team members are killed by a terrorist bomb; an all-seat stadium is built; Roy sets new goal scoring record, notching up his 436th goal.

And then Roy resigns as manager on Sky TV. Flash Gordon becomes manager. Roy is re-instated, crashes his helicopter, has his left foot amputated, becomes manager of AC Monza, his son Rocky becomes Roy of the Rovers mark II and throughout all those years nobody says "damn" or "bum", sniffs coke or goes bald; and Melchester Rovers keep playing in red and yellow, which must infuriate their merchandising department.

## Schofield wins back place in British squad

By Christopher Irvine

THE long road back has proved shorter than Garry Schofield can have imagined. Just over two weeks after being stripped of the captaincy and dropped from the Great Britain rugby league squad, he is back in the party for the second international at Old Trafford next week.

While Shaun Edwards, his successor as captain, sits out the game because of a torn knee ligament that prevented his appearance in the first match, Paul Loughlin, the St Helens centre, who is still struggling with a torn knee ligament that prevented his appearance in the first match, could return to the colours at stand-off.

His recall depends largely on the fitness of Daryl Powell. The leg injury Powell sustained at Wembley remains a cause for concern, even though it spared him a part in Sheffield's 80-2 drubbing by the Australians on Wednesday.

There were numerous raised eyebrows, from Australians especially, when Schofield, 29, was omitted from the squad for Wembley. Even though Ellery Hanley, the new Great Britain coach, said players excluded from the first international might come into contention later, it seemed that the door was closing on one of the game's most celebrated playing careers, with Schofield two matches short of Mick Sullivan's record of 46 international appearances.

Few players are better equipped to rise to a challenge and, with Britain striving to win a series against Australia for the first time for 24 years, Schofield will not be found wanting if his services are required.



Schofield: quick recall

With the doubts over Powell, Lee Jackson and the Welsh pair of Johnathan Davies and Allan Bateman, who are both doubtful for Wales's game with Australia in Cardiff on Sunday, Hanley has also added three further players to the squad in addition to Schofield and Paul Newlove, the Bradford centre, who is still struggling with a torn knee ligament that prevented his appearance in the first match. Paul Loughlin, the St Helens centre, and Paul Hulme, the Widnes utility player, last played for Great Britain in 1992. Richard Russell, the Castleford hooker, included as cover for Jackson, who has a wrist problem, is uncapped.

Although it has still to be officially confirmed, Phil Clarke is likely to retain the captaincy duties he assumed when Edwards was dismissed for the high tackle that felled Bradley Clyde. Apart from the satisfaction of recording their biggest tour win for 73 years, it is questionable whether Bobby Fulton, Australia's coach, resolved many questions of team selection in the slaughter of Sheffield. He requires a goalkicker, however, and, with Rod Wishart setting a record for an Australian tour by landing 12 goals against Sheffield, he might well be found a place at Old Trafford.

Half the Great Britain side and Barrie-Jon Mather, who has been absent for five months with a shoulder injury, are expected to be included by Wigan, the championship leaders, for tonight's visit to Hull.

The match will be controlled by the Australian referee, Graham Amesley, who will be in one-way electronic communication with his touch-judges. They will be able to communicate to him any offside play, forward passes and knock-ons via microphones in the tops of their flags. The signal will be received by a small radio worn around the referee's waist. The system has been used successfully in Australia and is being tried here on an experimental basis.

## House of Lords

## Law Report October 28 1994

## Court of Appeal

### Duty to ensure re-delivery on time

Torvald Klavness A/S v Arni Maritime Corporation, (The Gregos)

Before Lord Templeman, Lord Ackner, Lord Mustill, Lord Slynn of Hadley and Lord Woolf [Speeches October 27]

The charter of a vessel whose order for a final voyage had been rendered invalid because of changed circumstances was obliged to replace it with a valid order which would ensure re-delivery in time.

A short delay beyond the time fixed for re-delivery under the charterparty was insufficient to justify termination of the contract, but the shipowner was entitled to treat the contract as at an end where the charterer persisted in the order after it had become invalid because that constituted an anticipatory breach.

The House of Lords so held in allowing an appeal by the owner of the vessel *Gregos*, Arni Maritime Corporation, from the decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Russell, Lord Justice Hirst and Lord Justice Simon Brown) (*The Times* June 4, 1993; [1993] 2 Lloyd's Rep 335) to allow the appeal of the charterer, Torvald Klavness A/S, against a judgment of Mr Justice Evans on January 31, 1992 ([1992] 2 Lloyd's Rep 335) in favour of the owner, upholding an arbitration award of Mr Mark Hamshar in the owner's favour.

Mr Peter Gross, QC, and Mr David Goldstone for the appellant owner. Mr Kenneth Rokison, QC and Mr Timothy Young for the respondent charterer.

LORD TEMPLEMAN, concurring in the result, said the time for re-delivery in a time charter was of the essence of the contract, absent any provision to the contrary. If the charterer evinced an intention not to re-deliver by the date or late date fixed for re-delivery, the charterer would evince an intention not to be bound by the contract and would thus repudiate it.

The owner might ignore the repudiation and claim damages resulting from breach of contract by any late delivery or accept the repudiation, withdraw the vessel from the control of the charterer and claim damages resulting from the repudiation.

There had been a good deal of discussion of legitimate and illegitimate late voyages, but in his Lordship's judgment the appeal fell to be determined by elementary principles of contract. The charterer had agreed to re-deliver on time and had therefore to give orders which ensured that the vessel would be delivered on time.

If the charterer gave an order which would not enable the vessel to be re-delivered on time, the owner might treat that order as a repudiatory breach of contract. If the owner complied with the order he lost his right to repudiate but was entitled to damages for any late delivery.

The crucial date in the present case fell when the charterer could have given an order which would have enabled re-delivery on time but insisted on an order which did not allow the vessel to be re-delivered on time. That order was a repudiatory breach of contract.

Had the *Gregos* been loaded in pursuance of that order, the owner would have lost its right to repudiate but would have remained entitled to damages for late delivery. The owner had accepted the repudiation and withdrawn the vessel.

The repudiation and the acceptance of repudiation were followed by an agreement under which the owner became entitled to the sums awarded by the arbitrator. His Lordship would allow the appeal.

LORD MUSTILL said the dispute concerned a claim by the owner of the *Gregos* for damages flowing from the time charterer's orders for a final allegedly "illegitimate" voyage, one that could not reasonably be expected to allow re-delivery of the vessel at the end of the charter period.

The owner had refused to accept the orders and the parties had then entered into a without prejudice agreement under which the last voyage was performed.

Under the charterparty, the charterer was obliged to re-deliver the vessel 70 days after initial delivery or pay damages for breach of contract. The plan for the voyage of the *Gregos* had been disrupted by the grounding of another vessel in the Orinoco, from where the charterer planned a final voyage laden with iron ore to Fos, near Marseilles.

The owner had declined to undertake the voyage to Fos and called on the charterer to give revised orders for the final voyage. The owner then made alternative arrangements for the ship to be chartered to another company.

Later the parties had agreed that the voyage should proceed on the basis that if it was held in subsequent proceedings that the owner had been justified in refusing to perform the voyage it would be entitled to a sum reflecting the difference between the charter rate of hire and the more advantageous terms that it would have had under the alternative arrangement.

The first issue in the case was the date for judging the validity of the charterer's order. The practical implications of the shipowner's promise to furnish the services of the vessel were initially undefined, although not unlimited. The owner could not be compelled to perform an order of the charterer which fell outside the range of his original promise.

The service called for had to be measured against the service promised, the one for such measurement, primarily at least, was when performance fell due.

The shipowner was entitled in advance of the time for perfor-

mance to reject an order which could be seen to lie outside his undertaking to furnish the services of the vessel.

But if the order was apparently valid its validity was no more than contingent, since the time for matching the service against the shipowner's promise did not arrive until the nature of the service was definitely known and that would not usually be until the service was due to begin, or in some instances until it was already in progress.

There was no judicial authority on the point and on the balance of convenience the owner's argument was to be preferred.

The charterparty itself indicated on analysis that the time for assessment of the legitimacy of the charterer's order was when it became due for performance.

An invalid order for a final voyage was only a special case of an order issued for the performance of a service which lay outside the scope of the shipowner's promise.

There were three different grounds on which a shipowner was entitled to treat himself as discharged by when called upon by a charterer to perform an extra-contractual service.

The order was a repudiatory breach, the re-delivery of the vessel after the final date was a breach of contract, and in persisting in an illegitimate order the charterer was evincing an intention no longer to be bound by the contract.

The charterer was obliged to give a valid order for the employment of the ship and became in breach of the charter by failing to give an order for the employment of the vessel had expired with no valid order being made.

His Lordship had difficulty in accepting that the charterer was not obliged never to give an invalid order which asserted or assumed that an illegitimate order was in itself a breach and the point had been conceded in the Court of Appeal so his Lordship would assume it to be correct.

It was quite a different matter to say that the duty never to give an invalid order was so fundamental to the working of the contract that the giving of such an order in every case ended the shipowner's treat the contract as at an end, even if by rejecting the order he could ensure that it caused him no damage at all.

His Lordship found it hard to accept that timely re-delivery was a condition of the contract. He inclined to the view that that particular obligation was "innominate" and that a short delay in re-delivery would not justify the termination of the contract.

The owner's third argument depended, not on the invalid order which was given, but on the valid order which was not. The original order had no intention of so doing and the charterer was obliged by the charterparty to replace it with one which it was entitled to give.

It was plain from the facts stated by the arbitrator that the charterer had no intention of so doing and that the critical time after which the vessel could not be re-delivered on the due date would pass without any valid orders being given.

That was the significance of the changed circumstances which had rendered the original order invalid. Not that the order constituted a repudiation in itself, but that the charterer's persistence in it after it had become ineffective, which entitled the owner to treat the contract as ended.

Lord Ackner, Lord Slynn and Lord Woolf agreed with Lord Mustill.

Solicitors: Ince & Co. Solicitors, Roche & Temperley.

Incumbent's decision on place of burial

In re Marks (deceased)

There was no entitlement to have the remains of a deceased person interred in any particular place within a consecrated churchyard. The decision as to the precise place of burial or interment lay with the incumbent and the consistory court could not interfere with the exercise of his discretion unless it had been exercised in some improper way or relevant material considerations had been disregarded.

Mr Harold Lomas, Chancellor of the Diocese of Chester, so held on August 31 when refusing to grant the faculty sought by petition dated May 9, 1994, brought by Miss Dorothy Marks for the

exhumation and reinterment of the cremated remains of her late brother, Sydney Wilson Marks in the churchyard of St Mary, Alderley.

THE CHANCELLOR said that there were no grounds on which the court ought to interfere with the exercise of the rector's discretion.

It was not the wishes of a personal representative or next of kin of the deceased to have removed the body or ashes from one part of a churchyard to another which were the crucial considerations but whether it appeared to the court to be for reasons well founded and sufficient for a faculty to be granted.

K v K and Another (Legal Aid: Costs)

Before Lord Justice Neill and Mr Justice Wilson [Judgment October 20]

The practice of awarding costs against the Legal Aid Board to the assisted party in cases involving children was governed by the principles which governed all civil litigation, even though that could result in the assisted party suffering severe financial hardship.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment in dismissing an appeal brought by Mrs K against the refusal of Judge Marcus Edwards at Brentford County Court on January 14, 1994 to order the Legal Aid Board to pay her costs of two applications brought by Mr K concerning the care and control of their children.

Section 18 of the Legal Aid Act 1988 provides: "(4) An order under this section in respect of any costs may only be made - (a) in order for costs would be made in the proceedings apart from this Act."

Mr Andrew Nicol for Mrs K; Mr John Gimblett for the Legal Aid Board; Mr K did not appear and was not represented.

MR JUSTICE WILSON said that Mr and Mrs K had married in 1979 and had two children. They lived in Harrow in a property which was vested in their joint names. In 1987 the wife filed a petition for divorce and shortly afterwards the husband filed an application for care and control of the children.

The judge made an interim order conferring custody of the children jointly, with care and control to the husband, who was not in work and reasonable access to the wife, who was going out to work.

That was an unusual order in the circumstances where both parents still occupied the home and the judge later admitted that it had not worked well. The costs of that order were the first set sought to be recovered by the wife and amounted to £8,000.

A year later, there was a second hearing before the judge in relation to care and control of the children. The parents were still both occupying the home but the wife had begun to work at home and the husband was working out of the home.

The judge committed the children to the care and control of the wife. The wife's costs of that application were the second set of costs which were sought to be recovered from the board and amounted to a further £8,000.

When the home was finally sold, the husband's share of the proceeds amounted to £23,000 but the costs incurred under his legal aid certificate had been so extensive that all but the exempt sum of £2,500 was taken by the board pursuant to the charge.

The wife's share of the proceeds

was £32,000, but over £23,000 was paid to her second set of solicitors. No provision was made out of the proceeds for payment of her debt to her first set of solicitors of £11,000.

With the balance of her share, and a mortgage the wife bought a home for herself and the children. There was also a charge on that property in favour of the board in respect of costs incurred while she had the benefit of legal aid.

The scheme of section 18 of the 1988 Act was to enable the court with a discretion to make an order for payment by the board of costs incurred by an assisted party on certain conditions:

1 The court should have considered what order for costs should have been made against the assisted party and determined his liability in respect of such costs;

2 In respect of costs incurred in a first instance court, the proceedings were instituted by the assisted party;

3 The proceedings were finally decided in favour of the assisted party;

4 In respect of costs incurred in a first instance court, the court was satisfied that the assisted party would suffer severe financial hardship unless the order was made.

S The court was satisfied that it was just and equitable in all the circumstances that provision for the costs should have been made out of public funds.

6 That an order for costs would be made in the proceedings apart from the 1988 Act.

The words "apart from this Act" in section 18(4)(a) indicated that the hypothesis should be that the other party to the proceedings did not have the limited protection against liability for costs provided by section 17 of the Act. That much was clear.

Presumably, however, the hypothesis went further: "apart from this Act" namely section 15 of it, legal aid would not have been available to the husband at all. So, if the hypothesis had to be that he was not in receipt of legal aid, what was one to assume in relation to his own costs; that he acted in person and incurred no costs; or, more reasonably, in his Lordship's view, that he incurred substantial costs on an unassisted basis?

If the latter was correct, then, since the section did not justify any hypothesis about his means other than to take them as they really were, the court presumably addressed itself to a considerable hypothetical burden on the husband in respect of his own costs.

Those problems did not arise when the question under section 18(4)(a) fell to be posed in conventional civil litigation; for there the financial position of the respondent to the application for costs was irrelevant.

The principal argument of Mr Nicol was that the judge's conclusion under section 18(4)(a) was incorrect in law could be summarised thus: an order for costs, certainly for the

second set of costs and probably for the first set of costs, would have been made against the husband apart from the Act, because the result of making no order would be to place the wife and thus the children in a parlous financial position and even to jeopardise the future roof over their heads.

At the time of both applications, the husband had a legal and equitable interest in the home, which would inevitably have to be sold, and so he had resources out of which such costs could be paid.

The judge had also said in the second application that, by vesting care and control in the wife, he was liberating the husband's capacity to earn and that he thus had much greater economic potential than did the wife.

Mr Nicol had reminded the court, correctly, that he did not have to establish that apart from the Act the husband would be condemned to pay all the wife's costs. The likelihood of an order for payment of only a small sum by way of contribution in the wife's overall costs of the proceedings would enable her to cross the threshold of section 18(4)(a).

However, his Lordship could not accept the validity of Mr Nicol's argument, namely that the judge's conclusion, that the husband had been made out of abundant means, an order might have been made. But in the present case there was but one house, of no great value, and a need for its replacement by two reasonable homes in each of which the children would be spending substantial periods.

In deciding whether to make an order for costs at the conclusion of the proceedings relating to children, it was impracticable and often unnecessary for the court, in a case where resources were slender, to conduct a survey of family finances and of likely needs with a view to allocating upon an order which would do least overall damage to the family and particularly to the children. That was the province of the court exercising its jurisdiction.

to make orders for ancillary relief. At the conclusion of the two sets of proceedings the court knew that the wife's application for ancillary relief had yet to be determined; that in those proceedings the welfare of the children would be the first consideration; that the wife's liability to her solicitors in respect of her costs would also have to be considered; and that after a detailed enquiry into all relevant circumstances an adjustment of capital could be ordered in favour of the wife.

The result was, as the judge found, that the wife would suffer severe financial hardship. Many might consider that she would also suffer considerable injustice.

The precondition of section 18(4)(a) was reasonable in the context of conventional civil litigation, where costs *prima facie* followed the event. But was it reasonable in the context of proceedings referable to children where nowadays it was unusual to make an order for costs?

Were the precondition to be removed in children cases, the claimant against the board would still have to show, in addition to severe financial hardship, that the proceedings had been finally decided in her or his favour and that an order against the board was just and equitable in all the circumstances.

Might not that produce a fairer balance between the protection of the public purse and reimbursement of costs incurred by a spouse in successfully defending proceedings relating to children brought with the board's assistance?

Argument would run both ways but the plight to the wife in the present case and the children might usefully precipitate it. The appeal would be dismissed.

LORD JUSTICE NEILL, concurring, expressed the hope that those who were responsible for legislation relating to civil legal aid might give consideration to the problems highlighted by this case.

Solicitors: Sheridans; Mr John Baker.

Bar to consider merits of appeal

In re D (Minors) (Family appeals)

The Bar should look with some care as to whether very sad family cases with no hope of succeeding ought to be brought to appeal.

Lord Justice Butler-Sloss so stated when, sitting with Sir Francis Purchas on October 4, the Court of Appeal dismissed the appeal of the wife from the decision of Judge Hallon, sitting in Bromley County Court on September 5, that a residence order be made in favour of the husband for the three children of the marriage.

HER LADYSHIP said that there was unfortunately no requirement for leave for such cases but it was not satisfactory for counsel to advise or to encourage a party to appeal in such a case, however dissatisfied the party was in the result.

Correction

In *Islam v Askar* (*The Times* October 20) the solicitors for the appellant plaintiff were Harvey Copping & Harrison, South Woodham Ferrers.



# Europe concedes World Cup ground to emerging Africans



Johansson: diplomatic

Generosity, and considerable diplomacy by Lennart Johansson, the Swedish president of FIFA, in negotiations for enlargement of the next World Cup in New York this week will have substantially strengthened his position as candidate to succeed João Havelange as president of FIFA, the world governing body.

Johansson resisted pressure from Germany and Italy to demand at least three of the additional eight places that have become available by the increase of the 1998 finals in France from 24 to 32. Johansson persuaded FIFA's executive committee, when they met two weeks ago, that they should be satisfied with two additional places.

"We must try to create understanding for each other," the affable, popular Swede said yesterday, referring to mounting pressures from

David Miller reports on behind-the-scenes moves to make sure the 1998 finals reflect a more global game

Africa and Asia as the game in those continents accelerates. "The African and Asian confederations represent a number of growing countries, and these continents have shown their worth in youth football and in the Olympics. Their development is obvious, and this is a reason to motivate the distribution of extra places to these continents."

Johansson stated that he had not had to force his members, but with seven of the eight quarter-finalists this year in the United States, many European members felt they had earned the right to half the total of finalists in the final competition.

As it was, FIFA's executive committee yesterday decided that the quota

should now be: Europe 14 (plus host country France); Africa five; South America four (plus champions Brazil); Asia/Oceania four; Concacaf (North and Central America) three. This means that Europe, Africa and Asia/Oceania have an increase of two each, and South America — with Concacaf — only one.

"We got what we wanted, and we're satisfied," Johansson said. "It was never our intention to enter the debate about how the other six places should be distributed, and that those continents should sort it out among themselves. We were thanked by Havelange for our attitude. We still have a most powerful position. Even if ten of our

15 teams underperform, that still leaves us with five doing well."

The executive committee, besides presenting the Fair Play and "Most Entertaining Team" awards to Brazil, lifted the sanction against Yugoslavia (Serbia-Montenegro) for a period of 100 days, allowing Yugoslavia to engage in friendly matches at all levels immediately.

Miljan Miljanic had already made informal approaches to the United States and Brazil for friendly matches in November and December, with the further possibility of meeting England on April 26. But that fixture would depend on the subsequent attitude of the United Nations regarding the ceasefire among former Yugoslav states.

There is also a suggestion that Yugoslavia, who were forced to withdraw, having qualified from the 1992 European championship

## WHO GOES IN 1998

Holder, Brazil	14	(12)
Host, France	5	(5)
Europe	14	(12)
Africa	5	(5)
South America	4	(4)
Asia/Oceania	4	(4)
CONCACAF	3	(3)

Figures in brackets show allocation of teams for 1994 World Cup

should be given a back door entry for 1996, even though the qualifying competition has already begun. The proposal is that they should make a third team in a play-off group with the two worst second-placed teams — from the eight qualifying groups — for a single place at the finals.

But Johansson said yesterday: "It is by no means certain that this would be approved. Here would be a strong team coming in to compete

against others who have struggled their way through for many months. We are not obliged automatically to re-admit them — after all, we didn't start the war."

Predictably, Slovenia and Croatia are opposed to Yugoslavia's re-admission, as are the long-standing political allies of Croatia throughout this century, Germany and Austria. Gerhard Mayer-Vorfelder, the German member of the FIFA executive committee, has been particularly outspoken against Yugoslavia, though that troubled country has many allies within football, such as their history of performance over fifty years.

The current Yugoslav squad would be drawn entirely from players appearing at the moment in the professional leagues of Italy, Spain, Portugal, Germany, Japan, Greece and Scotland.

## Draw gives lesser lights chance to carry on shining

By OUR SPORTS STAFF

THE Coca-Cola Cup, once such a happy hunting ground for football clubs from outside the top division, is again shaping up nicely for the minnows. The draw for the fourth round yesterday pitted four of the most-fancied FA Carling Premiership teams in direct opposition.

In what is arguably the tie of the round, Liverpool were handed a trip to Ewood Park and a match against Blackburn Rovers, the team assembled at huge cost by their former manager, Kenny Dalglish. An appetising prospect is also in store at Maine Road, where Newcastle United, having disposed of Manchester United on Wednesday night, now take on free-scoring Manchester City.

One more Premiership club will go out of the competition when Crystal Palace entertain the holders, Aston Villa, and another could follow at that stage if Arsenal are able to defeat Oldham Athletic in a replay at Highbury on November 9. They would then be at home to Sheffield Wednesday, whom they defeated in both the 1993 Coca-Cola and FA Cup finals.

Two other Premiership teams will fancy their chances of appearing in the quarter-finals, having been drawn at home to Endleigh Insurance League first division opposition. Nottingham Forest take on Millwall at the City Ground, while West Ham United's reward for their victory over Chelsea is a home tie against Bolton Wanderers, who eliminated Everton, Arsenal and Villa on their way to the sixth round of the FA Cup last season.

A third Premiership versus first division tie would see Norwich City entertain Notts County, who knocked Tottenham Hotspur out on Wednesday — provided that Norwich can first overcome Tranmere Rovers in a replay at Carrow Road — but one Endleigh League team is guaranteed a place in the last eight, with the winners of the replay between Brighton and Swindon Town having home advantage against Derby County.

Fears that Gavin Peacock,

the Chelsea captain, had broken his right ankle at Upton Park were dismissed yesterday. Peacock was taken off on a stretcher after 15 minutes having suffered from ankle ligaments and later underwent X-rays to reveal whether there had been any break.

Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, said yesterday: "The X-rays showed that there is no break and we are pleased about that, but Gavin could still be out for four weeks while the ligaments mend."

Peacock's injury has increased Hoddle's selection problems for their Premiership match against Sheffield Wednesday tomorrow. He was "down to 14 fit senior players for the match against West Ham after injuries to 18

professionals, 15 of them senior squad members. Neil Shipperley is now the only recognised striker available."

There was better news, though, of two England midfield players. The captain, David Platt, has said that he is now "100 per cent fit" after knee surgery, which had kept him out of action since September 21.

Platt came on as a substitute for seven minutes in Sampdoria's 1-1 draw with Fiorentina on Wednesday night and he said yesterday: "The knee injury is now just a bad memory."

Platt will be available for England's next international, against Nigeria at Wembley on November 16. "I will play the full 90 minutes against Napoli on Sunday and, in all, I have five club games to play before the international," he said.

Since he was injured playing for his Italian club on September 21, Platt has missed two European Cup Winners' Cup games, four Serie A fixtures and England's draw with Romania at Wembley last month.

Robert Lee, the Newcastle player who scored on his debut after taking Platt's place against Romania, has declared himself fit for the Premiership match against Manchester United at Old Trafford tomorrow.

Lee, who injured a groin two days later in training, has missed Newcastle's four subsequent matches, but he said after a run-out yesterday: "Provided I don't get any adverse reaction to what I did at training, I'll be fit for selection for Saturday."



Terry Venables, the England football coach, and Richard Möller-Nielsen, the coach of Denmark, the holders, display the European championship trophy in Liverpool yesterday at the launch of Euro '96.

From today, ticket application forms for the tournament, which is expected to be a sell-out, are available from FA Carling Premiership and Endleigh Insurance League clubs and all branches of Midland Bank.

## Expansion plan for Conference gathers support

BY WALTER GAMMIE

A PROPOSAL to establish a second division of the Vauxhall Conference is gaining favour among the competition's clubs as a wide-ranging debate about the structure of non-league football intensifies in the wake of Kidderminster Harriers' rejection by the Football League last season.

The Conference has thrown the proposal open for discussion in the belief that, unless there are reforms to its feeder league system, it is the best-placed competition to serve the interests of clubs in an age when, as the Kidderminster case proved, the quality of a club's ground, not its team or administration, is of most importance.

Bill King, the Conference chairman, admits the league's clubs have reacted eagerly to the idea of a second division: "Understandably, I think, those who have spent time and money developing their grounds see it as a way of ensuring their work will not be wasted," he said. "People will accuse us of being protectionist, but we feel under strong pressure to ensure our clubs build themselves up to standards that equip them for a move to the Football League. We cannot afford year after year to pass without one of our clubs moving up into the League."

King says pressure for a second division will grow if discussion with the feeder league joint-liaison committee does not promote moves for reorganisation below the Conference.

"I personally favour keeping the Conference as it is, but with north and south regional divisions, based on ground criteria, beneath it with one-up and one-down promotion and relegation," King said. "The problem is that we have the

southern league [the Beazer Homes League] with another one [the Diadora League] sitting in the middle of it."

An alternative scenario that King says "will be high on the agenda" when the liaison committee next meets will be the formation of a Midland League, an area covered at present by the Beazer Homes League, to go alongside northern and southern leagues.

Dennis Strudwick, the

REVISED FA CUP FIRST-ROUND DRAW:  
November 12: York City v Rotherham United; Chesterfield v Scarborough; Hyde United v Darlington; Wrexham v Stockport County; Walsall v Rochdale; Wigan Athletic v Gillingham; Grimsby Town v Luton Town; Aldershot v Bury; Hellenic v Torquay United; Abingdon v Bournemouth; Bishop Cleeve v Exeter City; Boreham Wood v Crawley Town; Kington v Brighton; Slough Town v Birmingham City; Newport (Isle) v Aylesbury United; Peterborough United v Northampton Town; Yeading v Colchester United; Bournemouth v Worthing; Hereford United v Hitchin Town; Bath City v Bristol Rovers; Heybridge Swifts v Gillingham; Kidderminster Harriers v Torquay United; Banet v Woking; Cambridge United v Boreham Wood; Ashford Town v Farnham; Enfield v Cardiff City; Chesham United v Bishops Cleeve; Thurton Town v Leyton Orient; Wycombe Wanderers v Chesham United; November 13: Glastonbury v Carlisle United; Brixton City FC v "Marlow v Oxford United"; Kington Town v Plymouth Argyle (live on Sky); Walton and Hersham v Swanwick City (live on Sky); Preston North End v Blackpool (live on Sky).

\* Denotes official match

Beazer Homes League secretary, said: "We have a Midland division and 14 Midland clubs in the premier division that can all have a crack at the Conference. That works, so I see no need for a change."

Another battle that the Conference is still fighting is for proper recognition from the Football Trust for funding ground improvements. If this principle is established, any argument for a further Conference division would be won hands down.

## THE TIMES

### Two-for-one offer of African adventure

FLIGHTS to African destinations unspoiled by mass tourism and holidays in Egypt and Kenya bring a touch of adventure to week four in our series of two-for-one travel offers.

From cruising on the Nile to shopping in the fetish market at Lomé, the capital of Togo, the giant continent of Africa offers the opportunity of a break in a distant and exciting destination at little more than the cost of a package holiday much closer to home.

If you choose Lomé, make sure you try the local food as well as the excellent French cuisine served in the more expensive restaurants. Soups based on maize, palm nuts and peanuts are a speciality and meat, poultry and seafoods are plentiful and well prepared.

Lilongwe, the capital of Malawi, is a modern city set in a rich agricultural region close to the Kasungu National Park — a vast area teeming with wildlife including lions, cheetahs and leopards.

Or consider Dar-Es-Salaam. An ideal centre for a holiday in Tanzania, the city is close to Mount Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain, and to wildlife viewing areas.

As an alternative to a hotel-based holiday, a Nile cruise offers seven nights of five-star accommodation and 12 excursions at £279 for two people.

Full terms and conditions appeared in Saturday's paper.



THE TIMES

TWO-FOR-ONE  
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CUT OUT AND KEEP

### TWO-FOR-ONE FLIGHT PRICES

From	To	Class	Price
London	Paris	Economy	£125
London	Amsterdam	Economy	£125
London	Brussels	Economy	£125
London	Frankfurt	Economy	£125
London	Munich	Economy	£125
London	Zurich	Economy	£125
London	Geneva	Economy	£125
London	Basel	Economy	£125
London	St Gallen	Economy	£125
London	Lucerne	Economy	£125
London	Sion	Economy	£125
London	Vevey	Economy	£125
London	Yverdon	Economy	£125
London	Cham	Economy	£125
London	Monthey	Economy	£125
London	Vevey	Economy	£125
London	Yverdon	Economy	£125
London	Cham	Economy	£125
London	Monthey	Economy	£125

### TWO-FOR-ONE FLIGHT AND HOTEL PRICES

From	To	Class	Price
London	Paris	Economy	£279
London	Amsterdam	Economy	£279
London	Brussels	Economy	£279
London	Frankfurt	Economy	£279
London	Munich	Economy	£279
London	Zurich	Economy	£279
London	Geneva	Economy	£279
London	Basel	Economy	£279
London	St Gallen	Economy	£279
London	Lucerne	Economy	£279
London	Sion	Economy	£279
London	Vevey	Economy	£279
London	Yverdon	Economy	£279
London	Cham	Economy	£279
London	Monthey	Economy	£279
London	Vevey	Economy	£279
London	Yverdon	Economy	£279
London	Cham	Economy	£279
London	Monthey	Economy	£279

## Edwards escapes life ban for steroid use

THE British shot putter, Paul Edwards, will escape a life ban from athletics after failing two drug tests in August. His punishment for using anabolic steroids is expected to be a four-year suspension.

Edwards tested positive for a number of steroids at the European championships in Helsinki and again shortly afterwards in an out-of-competition check.

International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) rules provide for a minimum four-year suspension for taking steroids and an automatic life ban for a second offence. However, in the case of Edwards, they are being treated as one offence because of the short time between tests. The

IAAF spokesman, Christopher Winner, said: "If an athlete was not aware of the result of the first test before the second was conducted, it counts as one offence."

The British Athletic Federation (BAF) made no comment last night although a week has elapsed since the second test was confirmed — like the first — by B sample analysis.

The BAF spokesman, Tony Ward, said: "We have to get the agreement of all parties concerned and at the moment we do not have that agreement."

But it is believed that Edwards has waived his right to a hearing before a BAF disciplinary panel and accepted the ban.

### WORD WATCHING

Answers from page 43

STWASH

(b) An Indian, specifically of the North Pacific Coast. Chinook jargon, adapted from North American French *sauvage* savage in same sense. "As we neared the Narrows other Stwashes in other queer-looking canoes paddled out."

TARBAGAN

(c) A large long-haired marmot, *Marmota bobak* or *Marmota sibirica*, found in the steppes of east and central Asia, also the pet of this animal. From the Russian *targagan*. "The giant marmot was being hunted for its fur, known as tarbagan skins."

VAALHAI

(a) A local name for the tope, *Galeorhinus galeus*, Afrikaans from the Dutch *vaal* pale + *hai* shark. "Tope: Vaalhai... This medium-sized (6 ft) cosmopolitan shark has recently become of considerable economic importance in South Africa for the extraction of vitamins from the liver-oil."

SHUL

(d) The synagogue, Yiddish adaptation of the German *scheele* school. "They walked with downcast eyes and penitent countenances to the Shul (as the Synagogue is called)."

### SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE

1... Qxd6 2 Qxd6 Bd4+ 3 Kh1 Nx2+ 4 Kf1 (4 Rx2 Rel+ mating) 4... Ne4+ 5 Kh1 Nx6 with an extra piece.

# England coach breaks down.



All news, all the time.  
Because that's how it happens.

مكة امين الاصل











**FROM MICHAEL HENDERSON IN PERTH**

When the England management team is consulted for its views on this misplaced experiment, the answer should be short and frank. With the Test and County Cricket Board, though, one never knows. South Africa pressed for seven one-day internation-

## SCOREBOARD

Total (5 wickets) ..... 248  
(90-1 after 25 overs)  
B T Julian, J Stewart, C Coulson and B A Reid did not bat  
FALL OF WICKETS: 1-7, 2-99, 3-181, 4-

47-1, Tuihell 6-0-32-0, Hick 4-0-19-0

ENGLAND

M A Atherton c and b Moody 28  
J P Crawley b Coulson 1  
G A Hick c Vealish b Julian 27

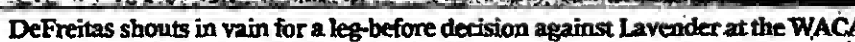
M W Getting c Hogg b Moody	7
G P Thorpe c Moody b Martyn	35
C White c Gilchrist b Martyn	35
S J Rhodes c Martyn b Stewart	14
P A J DeFries not out	21
C G ...	7

O Gough run out	7
O Malcolm b Coulson	4
P C R Turner b Coulson	4
Extras (lb 12, nb 2)	14
Total (45.5 overs)	197

(83-4 after 25 overs)  
**FALL OF WICKETS:** 1-2, 2-43, 3-62, 4-73,  
 5-124, 6-150, 7-150, 8-176, 9-193.  
**BOWLING:** Field 6-1-16-0; Coulson 6.5-2-  
 31-3; Julian 6-2-22-1; Moody 10-1-28-2;  
 Martin 7-0-41-2; Stewart 10-0-47-1.

Marlyn 7-0-41-2; Stewart 10-0-47-1.  
UMPIRES: B Rennie and R Emerson

England should be thoroughly glad now that the overture has ended. They have won one warm-up game, lost another and neither result means anything. It is time to clear the stage. Curtain up.



**Friday Feature: Caspar Flaniser. Radio 3. 10.45pm**

**Classic Serial Restoration: Radio 4, 200pm.**

The drama serial that N.J. Warburton has crafted from Tolstoy's novel about a spectacular case of pricked consciences falls back on a device that can solve all sorts of problems for the intelligent adapter. Tolstoy himself did this when writing his novel, so Warburton had an authoritative pattern to follow. The authorial voice is Richard Johnson's. The veteran actor cannot complain of being under-employed. If anything, the reverse is true, but that could change in the next two episodes. Hugh Grant plays the character of the servant girl who is unwittingly launched on the road to shame.

Peter Davison

RADIO 1 WORLD SERVICE

**RADIO 2**

9.00 Listen to the Band: Roy Newcome presents the Regimental Band of the Coldstream Guards, and the Empire

10:35 Barrows 1.15, Cheltenham 1.15, 12:00 Midday with Mel Inc 12.34pm Moneycheck 2.05 Rescue on Five 4.05 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 Have

10.05 Stop Press 10.35 Financial Week  
11.00 Night Extra, including at 11.45:  
The Financial World Tonight 12.05am  
After Hours 2.00 Up All Night  
3.00am Ross 11.00am 9.00  
Singer 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm  
Wendy Lloyd 7.00 Nick Abbott 10.00  
N.J. Williams 2.00-3.00am Paul Coyte

The first player to be suspended under the code was **Aqib Javed**, of Pakistan, who missed a one-day international against New Zealand two years ago.

**BY OUR SPORTS STAFF**

## One-day South At

Roger Twose, the Warwickshire batsman who has declared his interest in playing

Test cricket for New Zealand, is close to realising his ambition. Last Sunday he was chosen to play in a limited-overs trial match between North Island and South Island at New Plymouth.

Afterwards, Tillekeratne spoke of his relief at reaching that elusive century: "I have been waiting for quite some time but I'm very happy now," he said. The first two Tests in the series were drawn.

**BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT**

"Wharton's not the man to topple this man," Eubank said. "To beat me, you have to be a strategic thinker like Dan

Even though Moyo was not tested for Wharton, the Commonwealth champion's manager, Mickey Duff, believed the win would help Wharton's confidence. "It was not much

the music of Felix Mendelssohn in Vanessa Latche, piano

2.00 French National Orchestra under Charles Dutoit with Jean-Philippe Collard, piano

3.25 The Cambridge Medieval Music Festival: Ensemble

(Picture): Michael Finney (Traum des Sängers)

10.45 Deutsche Romantische Friday Features – Caspar Hauser. See Choice

11.30-12.30am Midnight Oil: Gerald Barry's Chevaux-de-frise

9.00 News 9.05 Desert Island  
Discs: Lynde La Plante (i)  
9.45 Feedback, with Chris Dundee  
10.00 News; Scotland Up the  
Fiddle (FM only)  
10.00 An A-Z of...  
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers  
7.20 Pick of the Week  
8.05 Any Questions? Frank  
Dobson, MP, Shadow  
Transport Secretary, and the

10.00 An Act of Worship (LW only)  
10.15 Children's Radio 4: The  
Spying Game (LW only); by  
Pat Moon (final part)  
10.30 Woman's Hour: Wendy  
Barton and guests reflect on  
writer Beatrix Campbell are on  
the panel tackling questions  
raised in Durham  
8.50 Law in Action  
8.15 Letter from America

**11.30 Austin and guests reflect on the experiences of women over the past 25 years during the conflict in Northern Ireland**  
**The Natural History**

**8.30 Kaleidoscope Feature: Paul Allen talks to Jude Kelly, artistic director of the West Yorkshire Playhouse in Leeds**  
**(t) 9.59 Weather**

Programme	Time
12.00 News; You and Yours	10.00 The World Tonight
12.25pm The Food Programme	10.45 Book at Bedtime: Los Angeles Without a Map
12.55 Weather	11.00 Week Ending
1.00 The World at One	11.25 Tee Junction
1.50 The Asylum, 12	

1.40 The Archers (r)  
2.00 News; Classic Serial:  
Reminiscence. See-Choice (r)  
3.00 News; Anderson Country  
4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope  
11.45 Today in Parliament  
12.00-12.45 Am News, incl 12.27  
Weather 12.33 Shipping  
12.43 As World Service (LW  
only)

RADIO 1: FM 97.8-99.8, RADIO 2: FM 88-90.2, RADIO 3: FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4: 180kHz/1515m; FM 92.4-94.8; LW 198, RADIO 5: 660kHz/433m; 800kHz/330m, LONDON RADIO: 1152kHz/261m; FM 87.3 CAPITAL: 1548kHz/104m; 2445

97.3: CAPITAL: 1540kHz/194m, FM-95.8. GLR: FM 94.9; WORLD  
SERVICE: MW 840kHz/463m. CLASSIC FM: FM-100-102; VIRGIN:  
MW-1215, 1197, 1242 kHz. Listings compiled by Peter Dear and  
Gillian Murray

CABLE & SATELLITE TV







FRIDAY OCTOBER 28 1994

## Smiles all round as Valderrama's fangs stay hidden



Mitchell, at the 10th tee, on his way to a round of 65 and a share of the lead in the Volvo Masters yesterday

FROM JOHN HOPKINS  
GOLF CORRESPONDENT  
IN VALDERRAMA

THE fangs that Valderrama bares at his opponents were hidden yesterday. The golfer wore smiles as they handed in their cards and the spectators saw more birdies on the first day of the Volvo Masters than they had in any two days of a previous event.

What had happened? The par 71 course, the most difficult and the best-maintained in Europe, yields sub-par rounds about as often as a pauper hands out pound notes, but in the first round of the concluding event of the season on this continent, 18 competitors were below par and 12 more equalled it. Since only 54 men are playing, this means that more than half of them were on par or better, a day of scoring such as has not been seen before at a course that some say could have been designed by the Marquis de Sade.

Was there a mocking look on Valderrama's face last night, as if it knew that havoc would be wrought sooner rather than later? Even on a

day of such remarkable scoring, Colin Montgomerie, who had a 69, still managed to run up five bogeys, more than in 72 holes last year. "Don't be fooled," Mark McNulty warned. "Today we caught the course with its defences down. It's still out there and this is a very difficult golf course."

Nobody, however, reeled off it with a look of anguish on their face and thoughts of murder in their heart, as has happened so often in the past. Indeed, Miguel Angel Jimenez, Peter Mitchell and Sam Torrance all had a shot at breaking the course record of 65, six under par. They all faltered when the prize was within their sights, yet, with 22 birdies between them (and four bogeys), they still returned cards of 65 to lead by two strokes from Tony Johnstone and three from Ian Woosnam and Pierre Fulke.

Someone said that a rainbow to one man is a wisp of fog to another and for all those 30 good scores, one of the most notable bad ones came from Nick Faldo. He went round in 74, three over par, nine strokes worse than the leaders, and lies joint-39th.

His score included five bogeys and one double bogey.

"I haven't been working hard enough," Faldo sighed. "I've only been doing nine-hour days. It should be 12 hours."

For the second time in a month, Faldo was paired with Sandy Lyle. "He must be coming down to my level," Lyle remarked drily of the man whose career for so many years was interwoven with his own, but

who, lately, has soared ahead. Lyle, 71, yesterday outscored Faldo by three strokes.

The respective successes of Faldo and Lyle, the fact that they are neighbours and both members of the same club, Wentworth, have not eradicated the friction that has always existed between them. Some photographers came upon the pair of them when Faldo was in trouble on one hole. "Stop smiling," one photographer remarked to Lyle. "I can't help it," Lyle replied mischievously.

Jimenez ascribed his success to not making any mistakes. Peter Mitchell to having taken the trouble to chart the contours of each green so that he knew where to hit his approach shots, even if he then ended with a 25-foot uphill putt rather than a ten-foot downhill one.

"This is the first time I have done a chart like this," Mitchell said later. "It took me three days to do it and I am not sure I can read it because it looks so confusing. But it did help me. This course is very, very severe. It looks as though it is designed to wear you down. You have to work out where you can take a liberty and

there are probably only four holes where that is the case — the 1st, 5th, 10th and 11th — and then only if you put your drive in the right place."

Torrance said the course was running unusually fast. Last year, when the event was played one week later because of the Ryder Cup, there had been heavy rain.

Frank Nobilo went round in 65 a few years ago when the course was also softened by rain. "The problem greens have been changed," Nobilo pointed out yesterday. "They have made the 12th and the 14th greens a little flatter. They have taken the fairway bunker out on the 17th, and the greens are running slower, about ten on the Stimpmeter. I should think that is about the right speed. There was no wind and, on such a day, the scores were about right. I think the course now is very, very fair."

Valderrama could be likened to a woman "that" bestows her favours occasionally and discriminately. On this day, she was mistreated. And you know what that means. Hell hath no fury, and all that. The players had better watch out.

## Ardiles fears the end of his great adventure

THE clamour for the head of the Tottenham Hotspur manager, Osvaldo Ardiles, begs fundamental questions about British attitudes to sport.

Is it really only two months since the Tottenham approach was being heralded as the catalyst to a more adventurous dawn for our football? And is the public, lead by the press, so fickle, so impatient, so thirsty to have an adventurous man dismissed that it goes knocking on the chairman's door after a defeat, albeit against first division opposition, Notts County, in the Coca-Cola Cup on Wednesday night?

Visitors to the Tottenham training ground yesterday were sent packing with the bland message that there was no known plan from the chairman, Alan Sugar, to dismiss his manager, or to make a public statement. It was "business as usual". Good, for Sugar, volatile though he may be, has to remember that the last time he changed managers, surely learning that they are not as interchangeable as satellite dishes, he brought not only the wrath of Terry Venables, not only litigation, but also breached the agreement not to poach another club's manager, an agreement that has been



Rob Hughes says the Tottenham manager must sacrifice his principles in order to save his job

so toughened up that it will be difficult to replace Ardiles from within the present crop of viable successors.

Moreover, it was Sugar, when he handed Ardiles a four-year contract in June 1993, who proclaimed: "We've got the best man to do the job." The best man? Ardiles began this season under enormous pressure, brought by the Football Association's action over misdemeanours not of his making, by winning the first two games. "We have lived dangerously in both," he conceded, "but we will continue to play with this cavalier attitude, though for certain we must improve our defending."

He has proved thus far a less capable manager of defence than attack, but Ardiles, a fine chess player, knows that defence is the basis of all attacking moves. Unless he is to be rudely pushed forwards, sideways or backwards in the managerial game, he must now find within his staff a player as vital to defence as Klinsmann is to attack.

More vital, in fact, for

Klinsmann can only score goals when the chances are created and, after netting seven times in the opening six Premiership matches, he has been scoreless in five. However, the key to the immediate health of Tottenham's points balance sheet is the Romanian, Gheorghe Popescu. He was signed for £2.9 million and immediately said that his true position is libero, that he acknowledges England finds this a foreign role and that he would rather be a midfield player than a defensive centre half.

Well, Tottenham's need is desperate for a man to marshal the defence. Ardiles must tell Popescu unequivocally that the time has come for him to "sacrifice a little individually, make yourself the fulcrum of my team."

Those were the words by which Cesar Menotti made Ardiles the world-class fulcrum he was for the 1978 World Cup winning team — a conversion that attracted Tottenham to gamble on him then, to introduce arguably the most influential foreigner ever to come among our footballers.

To approach that demand on Popescu, Ardiles must re-examine the core relationship he has at Tottenham with his assistant, Steve Perryman. The latter, the son of an English airport loader, made a pact when they performed together with the Argentinian, who is the son of a lawyer and military officer. It was that if ever either became manager of Tottenham, the other would drop whatever he is doing and be his aide.

In common with a trend in English football, Perryman tends to coach the Tottenham



Perryman, Ardiles's assistant, cuts a lonely figure as he supervises Tottenham's players at their Mill Lane training ground yesterday

defence, while Ardiles works with the attackers. These, at times they have differed.

Some years ago, when Ardiles was enthusing his Swindon Town players by telling them "the ball is your lover, your friend", Perryman, then manager of their rivals,

sive platform of three central defenders. It is not the first time they have differed.

World Cup places — Page 43  
Coca-Cola draw — Page 43

Watford, had a word in the Argentinian's ear. "You will not achieve anything through style in the second division," Perryman said. Ardiles responded: "Steve, I'm going to play football. I will die in the way I think football should be played."

They may, unless they quickly get defence together,

"die" in the footballing sense together. There is no great rift between the friends, as Perryman said yesterday: "We must all work and work together to get out of this crisis."

Ardiles was not the maker of the Tottenham crisis. The Sugar-Venables vendetta was. Ardiles knew, when he was beckoned by Sugar, that he was to a large extent a pawn in the game.

He believed, no doubt still believes, that he can provide the adventure that will soothe the bickering. But he and Sugar previously had in common only the fact that Ardiles played chess on computers. Sugar sold them. The game, chess, will have taught Ardiles the importance of watching not only the other man's eyes, but also what is in his hand.

## Hughes aims to stay

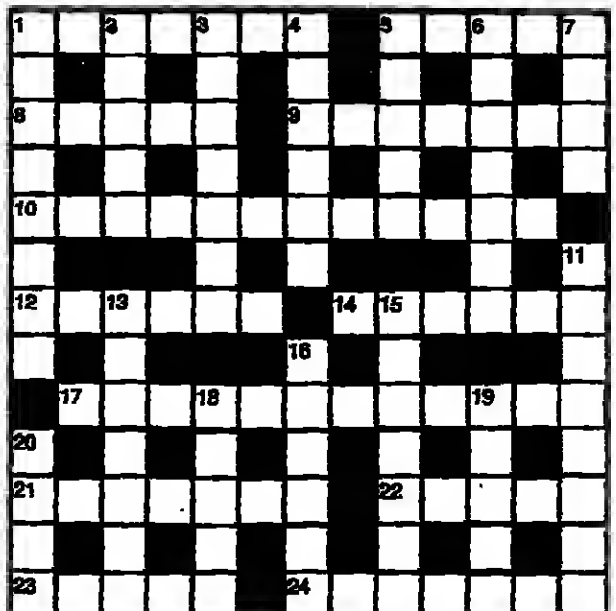
MARK Hughes, the Manchester United striker, is banking on finishing his illustrious playing career at Old Trafford. The Wales international has been offered a new one-year contract with the club, but has delayed signing because he is unhappy it is not for a longer duration.

"I hope the negotiations will soon be sorted out amicably," he said yesterday. "I believe I have five more years as a top player and I want those to be at Old Trafford."

Fears that Hughes would

need an immediate hernia operation subsided yesterday after he said he had played three games without reaction. He hopes to be recalled for United's two vital matches next week — the FA Carling Premiership encounter with Newcastle tomorrow and the European Cup Champions' League visit to Barcelona on Wednesday.

Steve Hodge, the former England midfield player, yesterday completed a £300,000 move from Leeds United to Queens Park Rangers.

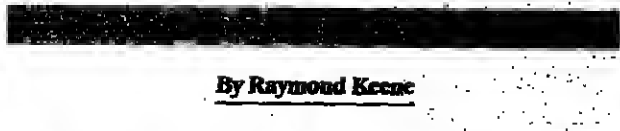


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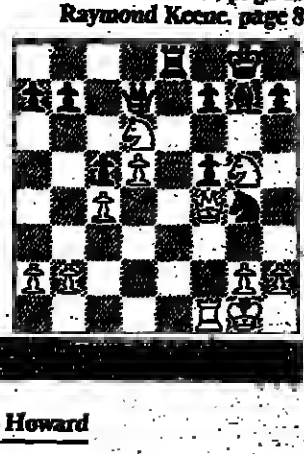
ACROSS  
1 Escape; come off it (3,4)  
5 Crumblings (US) eccentric (5)  
8 Agile (5)  
9 Badly behaved (7)  
10 Become competent in new role (4,4,4)  
12 Detective (6)  
14 Compose (quarrel); invent (4,2)  
17 Rash; irresponsibly violent (7-5)  
21 Not broken in (7)  
22 Samuel —, code inventor (5)  
23 Mock-up; baby soother (5)  
24 Reparation (7)

SOLUTION TO NO 303  
ACROSS: 7 Dado 8 Open fire 9 So-called 10 Atom 11 Scream 13 Oddity 15 Despot 17 Shabby 19 Blur 21 Glad rags 23 Facetious 24 Real  
DOWN: 1 Farouche 2 Solace 3 Fool 4 Dead loss 5 Abridged 6 Rico 12 Midgame 14 Toboggan 16 Purity 18 Aurora 20 Leaf 22 Alms



DOWN  
1 Silent pet; highly public sort of bowl (8)  
2 Giant (5)  
3 Selectively remove (the unwanted) (4,3)  
4 American (6)  
5 Down; error (in reciting) (5)  
6 Successfully complete (7)  
7 Winding/unwinding toy (2-2)  
11 Nimble condition (8)  
13 Misprint (7)  
15 Remorseful (7)  
16 Offer; vulnerable (6)  
18 Lame (leg) (5)  
19 Mashed food (5)  
20 Store of capital (4)

SIWASH  
a. A sand bath  
b. An Indian  
c. A pink yam  
TARBAGAN  
a. An Inuit elder  
b. A fish spear  
c. A hairy marmot



VAALHAI  
a. The tope  
b. The gateway to Valhalla  
c. A Veldt wagon  
SHUL  
a. A snow-boot  
b. A fennel troll  
c. The synagogue

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